

"The Record That Changed My Life!"

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GUITAR WORLD

5 SONGS

METALLICA

"Hero Of The Day"

TOOL "Stinkfist"

NIRVANA

"Aneurysm"

VAN HALEN

"You Really Got Me"

BUSH "Swallowed"

JANUARY 1997

TALK TRASH

bush

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VAN HALEN

the interview Part 2

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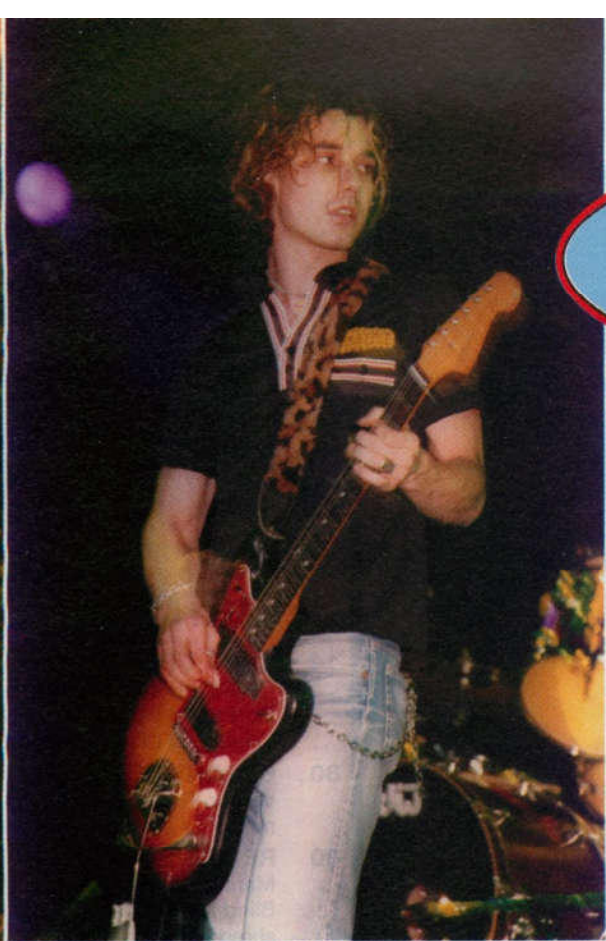
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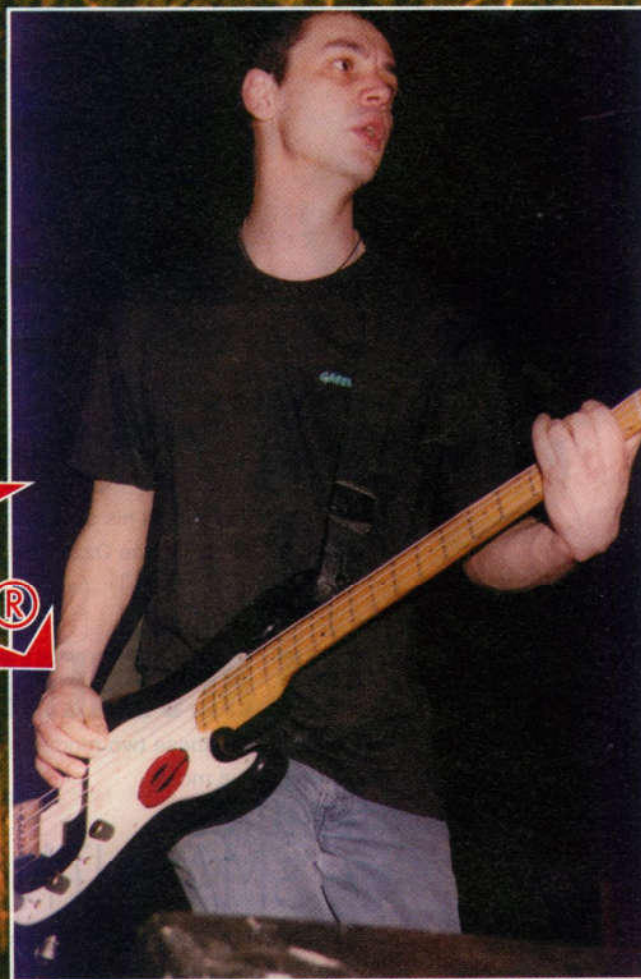
Can OZZY OSBOURNE save metal?

GAVIN ROSSDALE - GUITAR & VOCALS



Bush

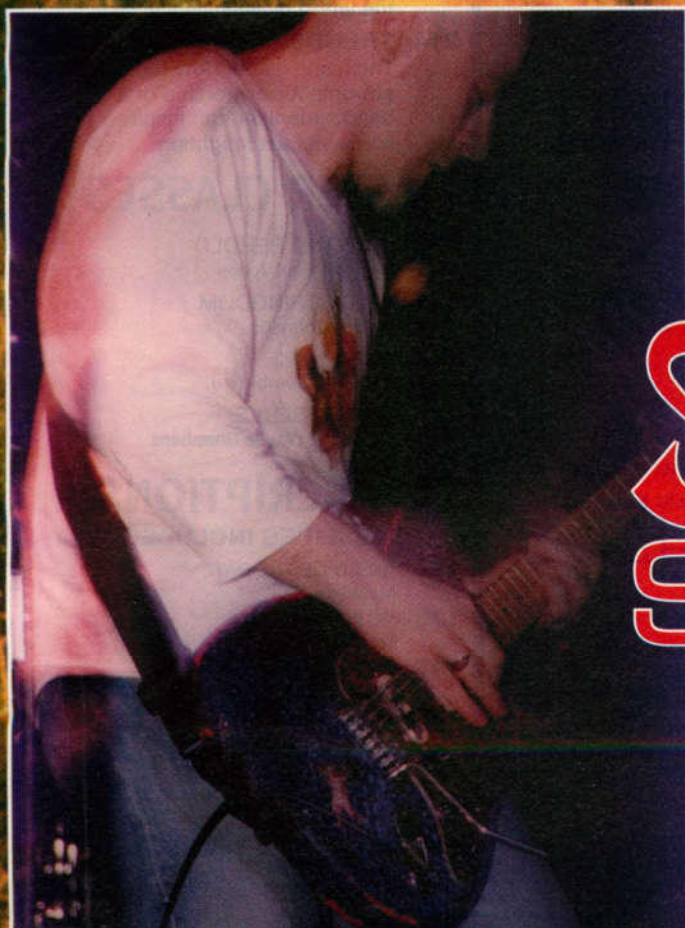
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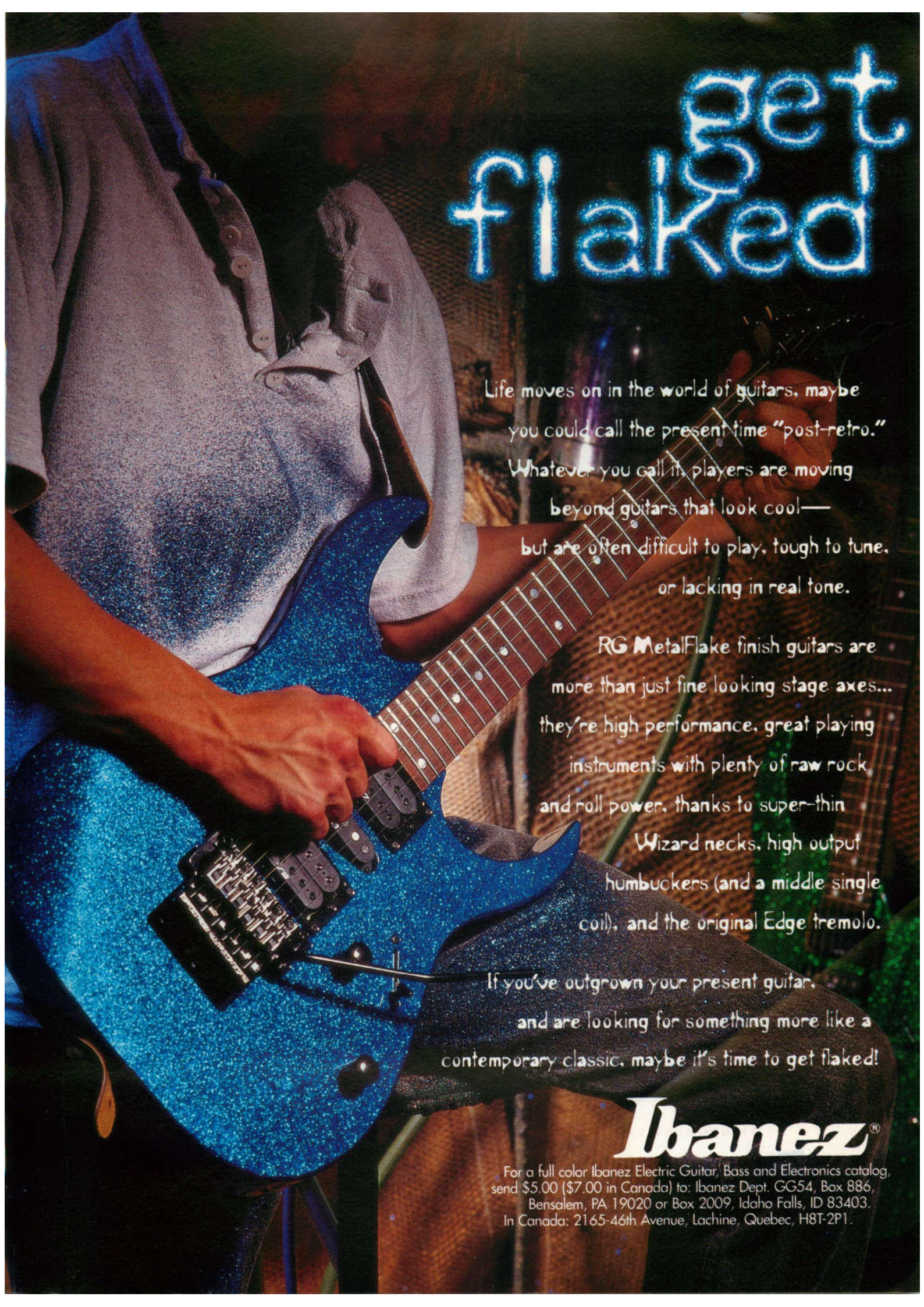
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A person is shown from the waist up, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, playing a blue electric guitar. The guitar has a 'Metal Flake' finish, which gives it a shimmering, textured appearance. The person's hands are positioned on the fretboard and the strings. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a stage or concert setting.

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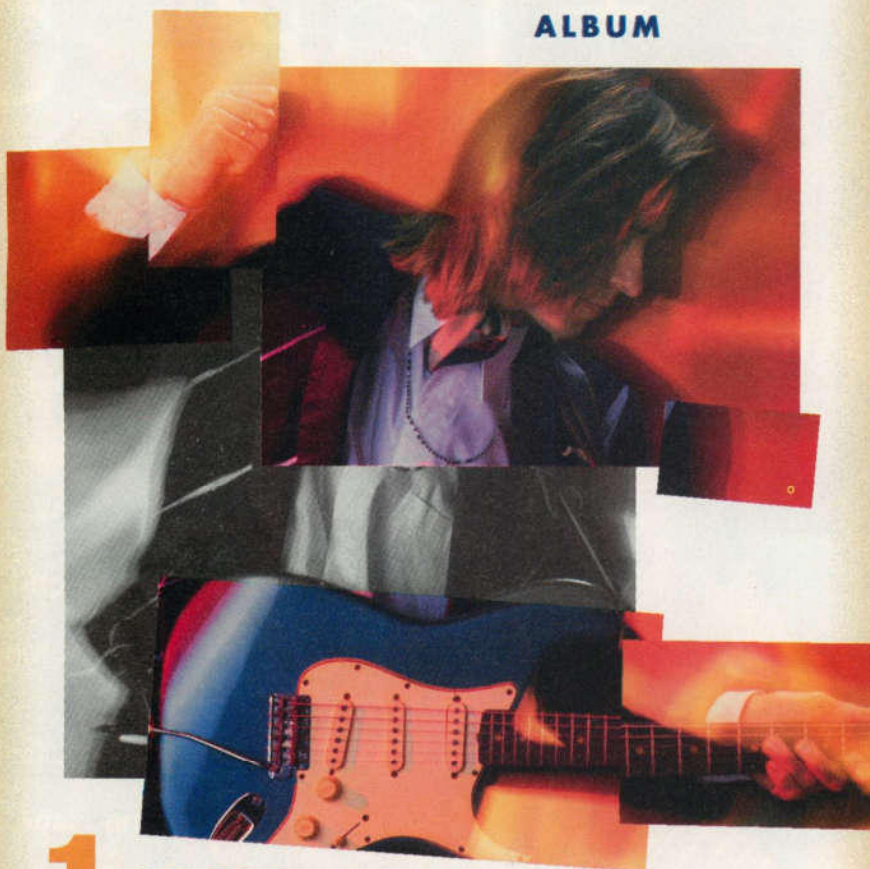
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3 ON TOUR

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JANUARY 1997

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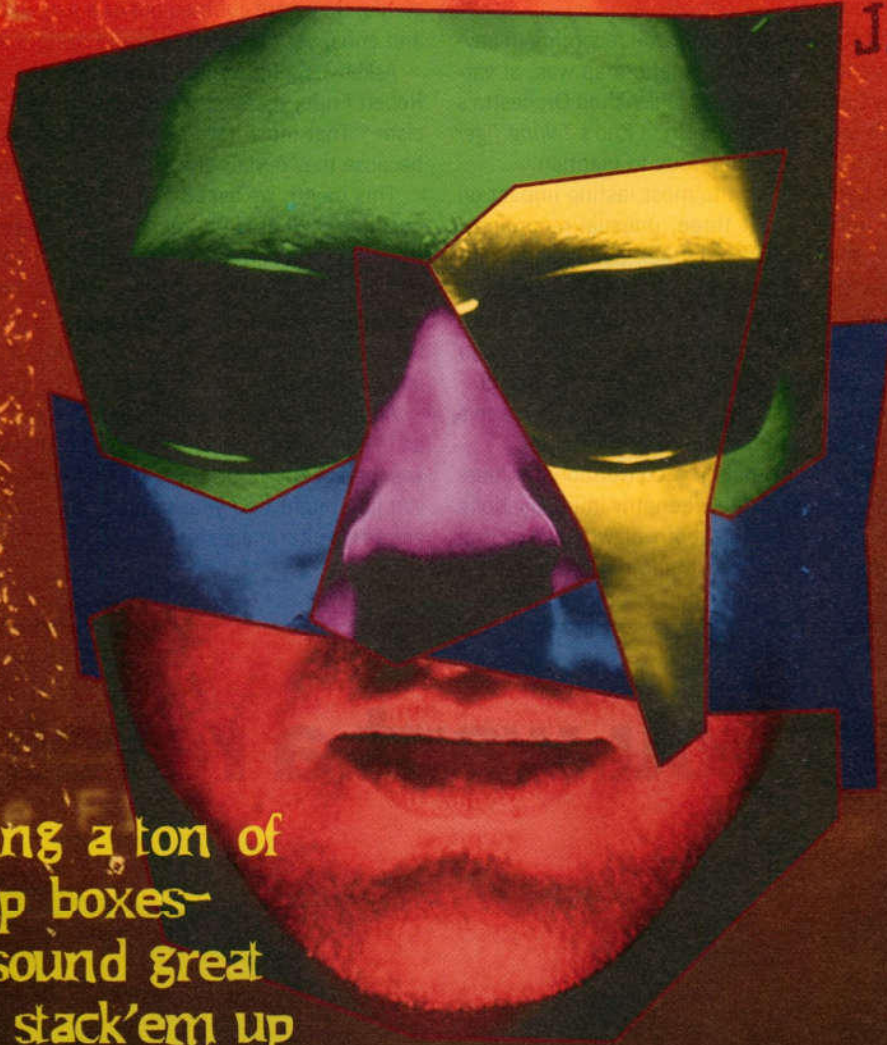
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THE WOODSHED

THE BIG ONE



WE ALL HAVE one—an album that not only changed our approach to music, but altered our very existence. Eddie Van Halen encountered the controlled chaos of Cream's *Live Cream* and became a man. Eric Clapton heard Robert Johnson's *King of the Delta Blues Singers* and still hasn't recovered.

It is, admittedly, difficult to pinpoint one pivotal recording in anyone's life, let alone a musician's. My own genetic map was, at various times, restructured by Clapton's *Layla*, Mahavishnu Orchestra's *Birds of Fire*, Jimi Hendrix's *Band of Gypsys*, Brian Eno's *Taking Tiger Mountain By Strategy* and others too numerous to mention.

But the music that has perhaps had the most lasting impact on my life may be found on not one, but three, unusual recordings. Between 1972 and 1974, the English prog rock band King Crimson released a trio of truly disturbing albums: *Larks' Tongues In Aspic*, *Starless And Bible Black* and *Red*. Each combined the brute power of metal with the harmonic and rhythmic sophistication found only in modern classical music and free jazz. As a young guitarist/violinist seeking new musical horizons, I found Crimson's uncompromising art-rock to be nothing short of a revelation.

While these three albums did not rock in a conventional, blues-based manner, they had many other virtues. Lengthy improvisations like "Fracture" and "The Talking Drum," both of which featured tense interplay between guitar, violin and Mellotron, possessed a strange, exotic power and mystery that begged to be deciphered—

even though their obtuse, internal logic seemed to contradict any kind of conventional music theory. Even Crimson's more structured pieces, like "Lark's Tongue In Aspic: Part Two," "Red" and "Fallen Angel," were completely original in form. Like avant-rock Frankensteins, they were cobbled out of a jagged collection of musical odds and ends, yet managed to stand upright and roar ferociously.

Asked how he would characterize the essence of King Crimson, Robert Fripp, the band's guitarist, replied, "energy, intensity, eclecticism." That must have been what initially attracted me to Crimson, because they remain the qualities I look for in music to this day.

This month we asked many of your favorite artists to answer the question, "What is the record that changed your life?" Some of the responses will surprise you, others will cause you to clap your hands; still others will cause the blood to rush from your face. We'd like to extend a special *Guitar World* thanks to the artists who did their best to answer this difficult question. All of them, no doubt, will be amply rewarded in the afterlife.

Additionally, we would like to invite you, dear readers, to take crayon in hand and let us know about the discs that permanently warped *your* perspectives. Be short, be profound, be funny, be pompous, and you just might find your name in an upcoming issue of the world's greatest guitar magazine.

BRAD TOLINSKI
Editor in chief

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANASTASIA VASILAKIS

You say you want a revolution?

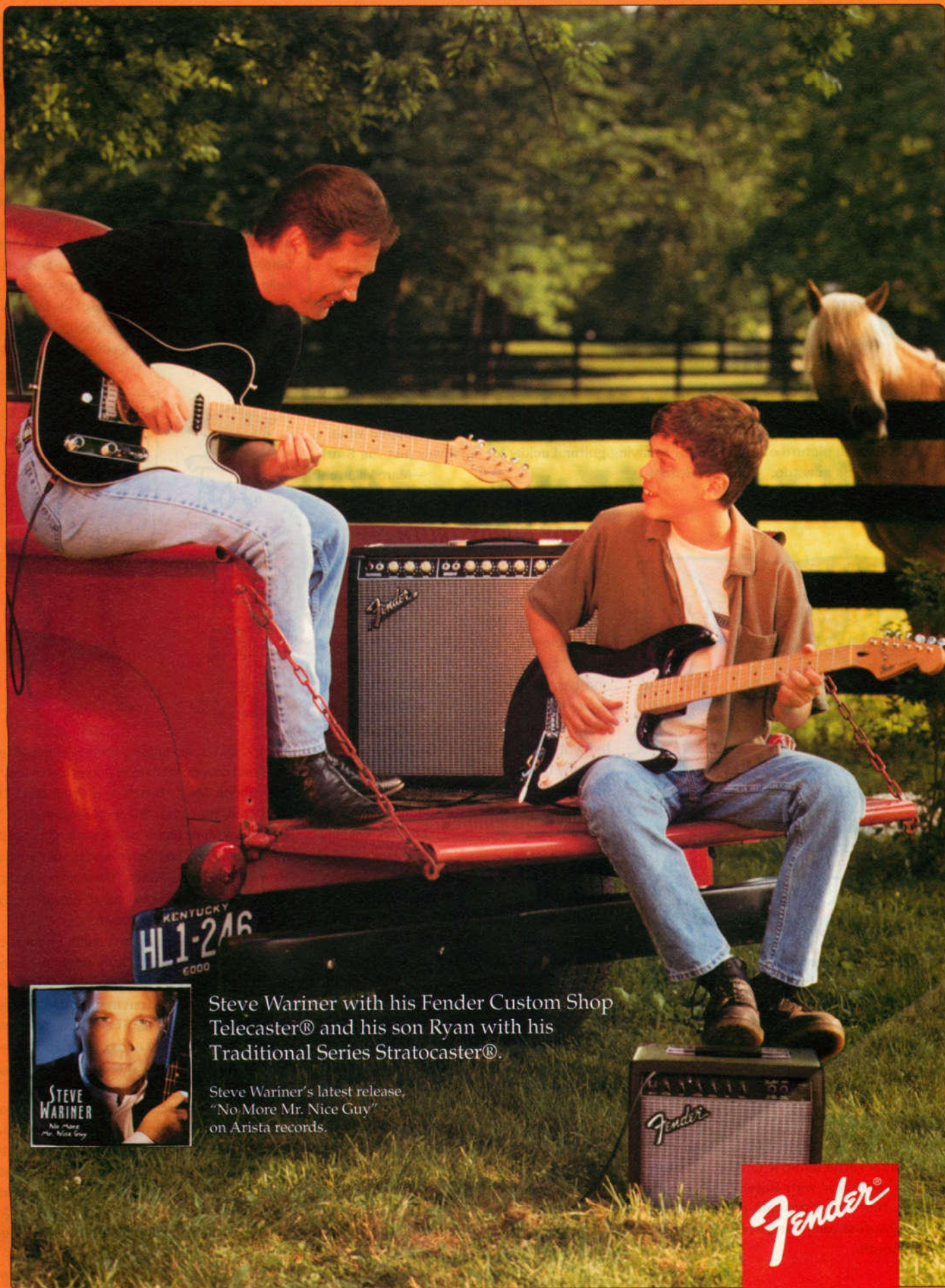
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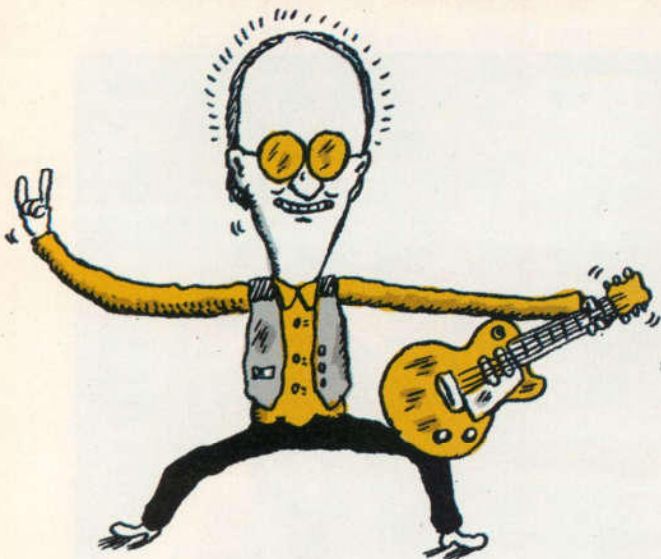
Steve Wariner's latest release, "No More Mr. Nice Guy" on Arista records.

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SOUNDINGBOARD



CLASSIC CROCK

I AM WRITING in response to Camille Paglia's essay in your November issue [Trends]. It was very irritating to read that, in her estimation, most bands today are not "truly original," while classic rock bands somehow were. Even though she gave a brief synopsis of the evolution of rock in the beginning of her essay, in the middle of the text she manages to insulate her precious classic hard rock from all that came before it. Since she seems to idolize Led Zeppelin, let's see how truly original they were.

For the purposes of this letter, I will focus on their first album, since it presumably has more of the cosmic vision of the Sixties than their lat-

TWIN GEEKS?

WHILE READING YOUR magazine [October 1996, page 103] my heart nearly stopped when I thought I saw a picture of Paul Schaffer playing guitar. Luckily for us, it was just Joe Satriani sporting his new "do." Rock on, Satch!

—Marc Villarreal
Alice, TX

HURDY GURDY TRUTH

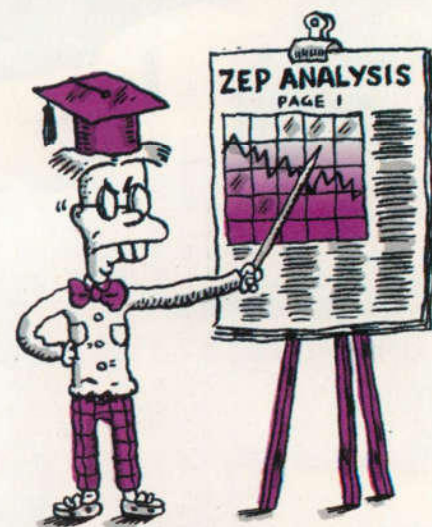
I CAME ACROSS the tune-up on Donovan in the December issue, and I thought I might set the record straight about something. Contrary to popular myth, Donovan had nothing to do with Zeppelin's inception. Jimmy Page was not on "Hurdy Gurdy Man." I was the arranger and bass player on that session, and I also booked the musicians, who were: Alan Parker (guitar) and Clem Cattini (drums). I also thought that the Butthole Surfers did a particularly fine job with it, even better than the wonderfully titled "Hairway to Steven."

—John Paul Jones
London, England

(JE)THROES OF LOVE

A WELL-DESERVED "thank you" for seeking out and getting one of music's most masterful minds, Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull, for your November issue. I wondered when the music press would finally catch on and question why so many people for some 30 years have been so loyal to this band. The answer is simple: Their music is ever-evolving, yet distinctively and exclusively Tull. I do, however, question your attempt to lump them in with other classic rock artists. They've never needed to "come back" because they never went away. They have always played the larger concert halls and arenas, and they predictably release new material every couple of years. It's just that the music press hasn't paid much attention.

—Tom Kimball
Norton, MA



er work. Of the nine songs on that album, five are direct covers: "Babe I'm Gonna Leave You," "You Shook Me," "Dazed and Confused," "I Can't Quit You" and "Black Mountain Side." "How Many More Times" was heavily influenced by Albert King's "The Hunter" and Howlin' Wolf's "How Many More Years." Moreover, Eddie Cochran's "Nervous Breakdown" played a part in "Communication Breakdown."

Led Zeppelin were a great band. I wouldn't, however, say they were "truly original." They took their influences and appropriated musical ideas by others and put them to use. Bands today do the same thing. That's how rock was born—combining blues and country. For example, two of Elvis's earliest recordings were by Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup and Bill Monroe.

Ms. Paglia's classic hard rock bands were the musical children of their predecessors. Keith Richards was involved in a movie about a guitarist named Chuck Berry. Eric Clapton's last album was all blues covers. And Pete Townshend has acknowledged his debt to Link Wray. I suggest Ms. Paglia listen to "Rumble" next time she wants to hear some huge, aggressive chords.

—Skip
Madison, WI

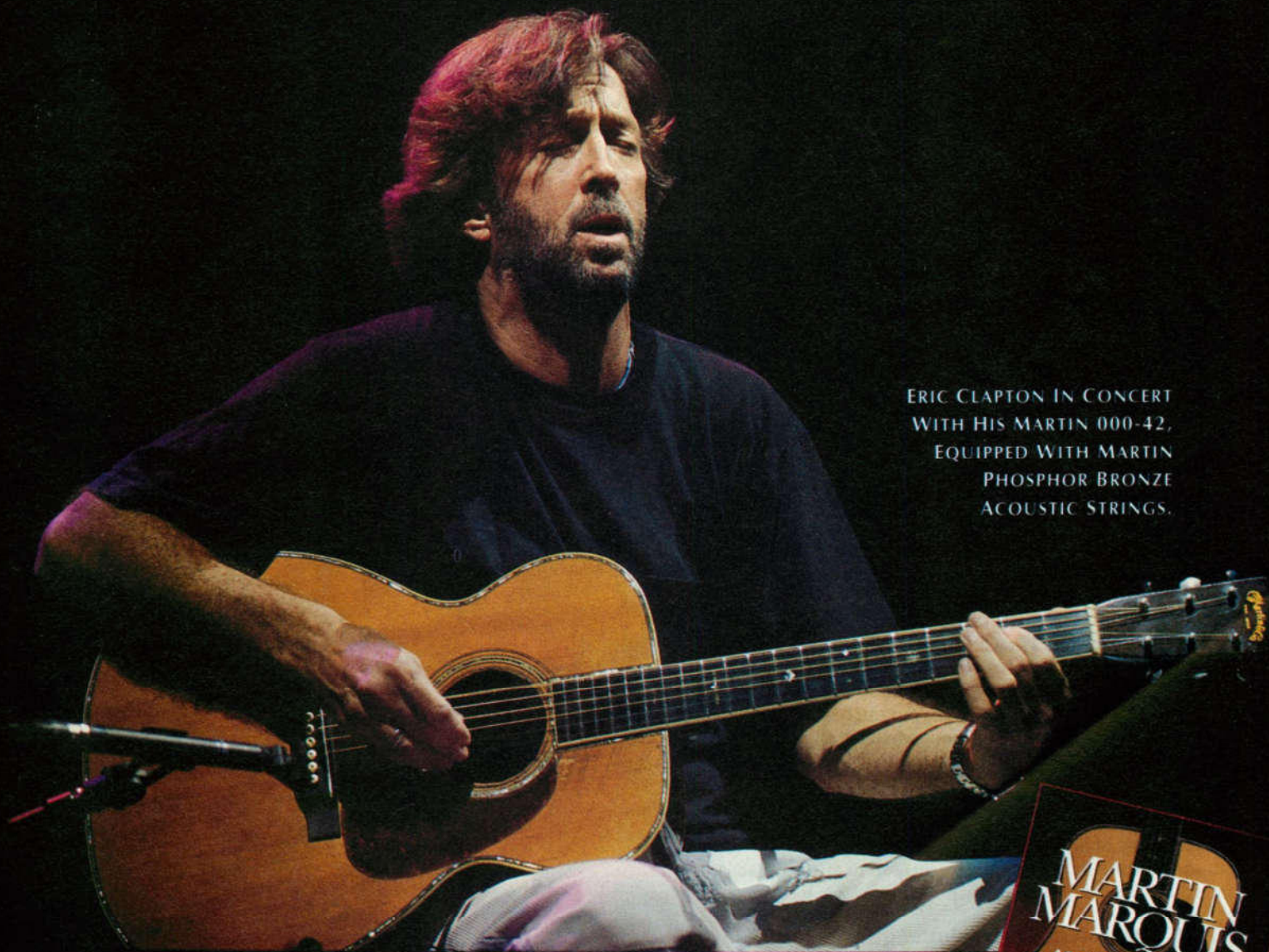


WIG PARTY

I thought I knew everything there is to know about my favorite band, R.E.M., but Vic Garbarini's interview with Peter Buck flipped my wig. Thanks for the fact-packed history of the greatest rock band ever to come out of the South.

—Lars Crespo
Macon, GA

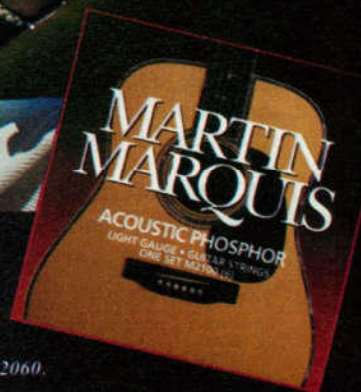
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TEXTUAL HARASSMENT

I BOUGHT YOUR October issue and loved it! I loved it so much I brought it to work. I was reading when my boss caught me. He said that if I didn't throw it away, I wouldn't have a job anymore. So if you could, please send me a new one.

—Jared Cambora
Crystal Lake, IL



animals removed from his anus.

—Frank Frombach
Houston, TX

ADDICTED TO THAT RUSH

ALL HAIL THE Canadian power trio! The interview in your November '96 issue with the greatest bassist in the world, Geddy Lee, and the greatest guitarist in the world, Alex Lifeson, was extraordinary. In fact, the whole article on Rush was particularly enjoyable. *Test For Echo* is one of their very best albums since 1981's *Moving Pictures*. I am glad you guys didn't let the release of what I consider the best album of 1996 go by without at least an interview.

—Jaime Harper
Eden, ID

CAMILLE POWER

I WOULD JUST like to say how pleased I was to find an article by one of my favorite authors, Camille Paglia, in your November issue. She is unfailingly entertaining and always provides accurate arguments in a world of philosophically obsequious bootlickers. Perhaps you could add her to your guest columnist section.

—Dakota Horn
Carnegie, OK

B.B. IS WATCHING YOU

HOW SAD THAT the Primitive Radio Gods' "Standing Outside a Broken Phone Booth with Money in My Hand" has gotten B.B. King's voice more pop radio airplay than any of B.B.'s original stuff probably ever did [*Tuneups*, October 1996]. The Gods' Chris O'Connor said in an interview that his only message to B.B. was, "Welcome to the 21st century, man." I bet B.B.'s only message to Mr. O'Connor is to please have his head and/or any small

CORRECTION

In Kenny Wayne Shepherd's December 1996 *Talkin' Blues* column, the sentence immediately following **FIGURE 4** should have began as follows: To bend all three strings at once, fret them all with the tip of the ring finger...

SEND LETTERS TO the Editor to The Sounding Board, *Guitar World*, 1115 Broadway, New York, NY 10010, or E-Mail us on the web at <http://www.guitarworld.com>.

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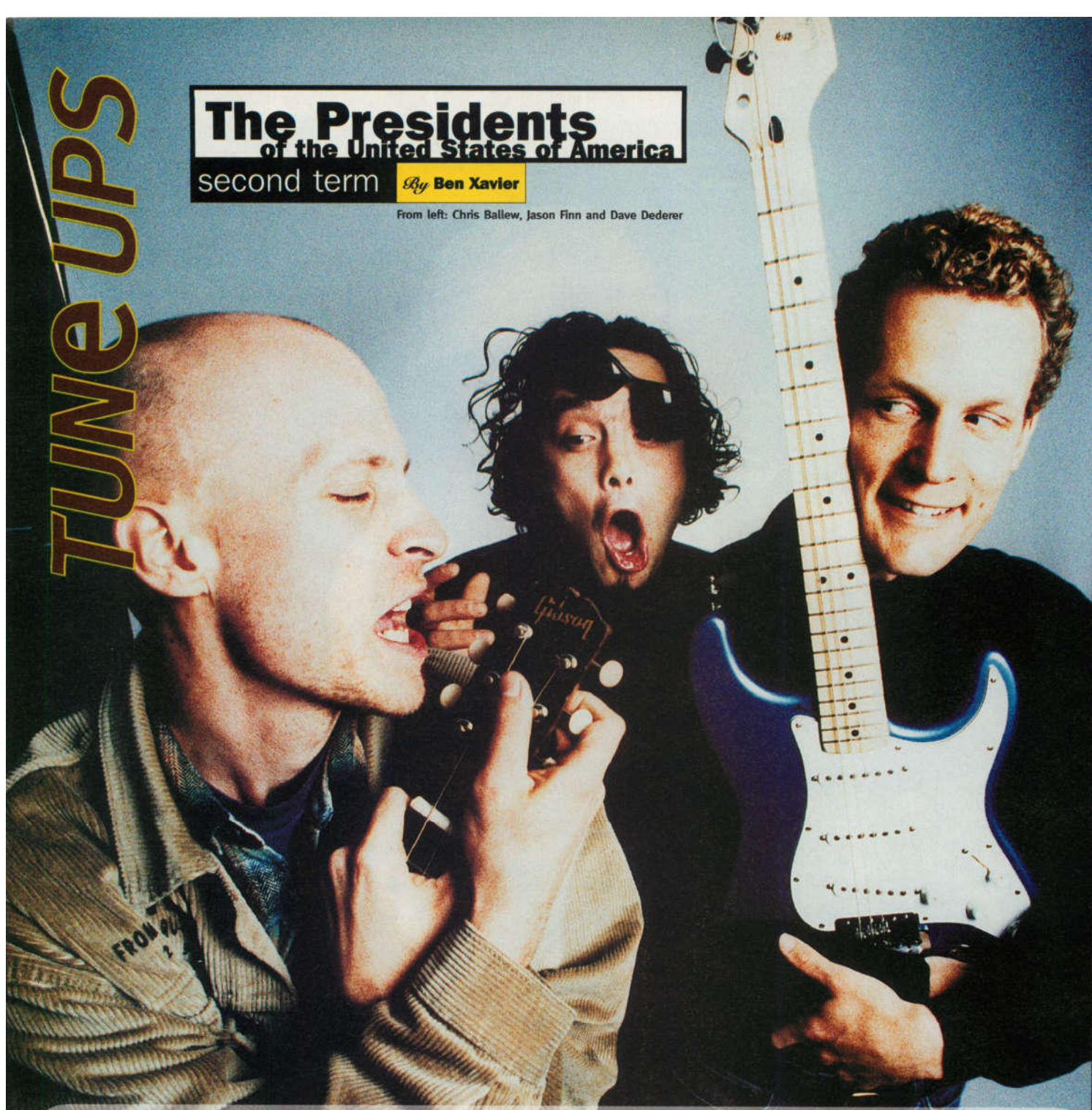
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The Presidents

of the United States of America

second term *By Ben Xavier*

From left: Chris Ballew, Jason Finn and Dave Dederer



"It DON'T MEAN a thing if it ain't got that *sproing*."

That what?

"*Sproing*: a certain sound that Fender Twins and Showmans have," Presidents of the United States of America guitarist Dave Dederer continues. "A particular bounce, an airiness, a *sproing* to the clean sound."

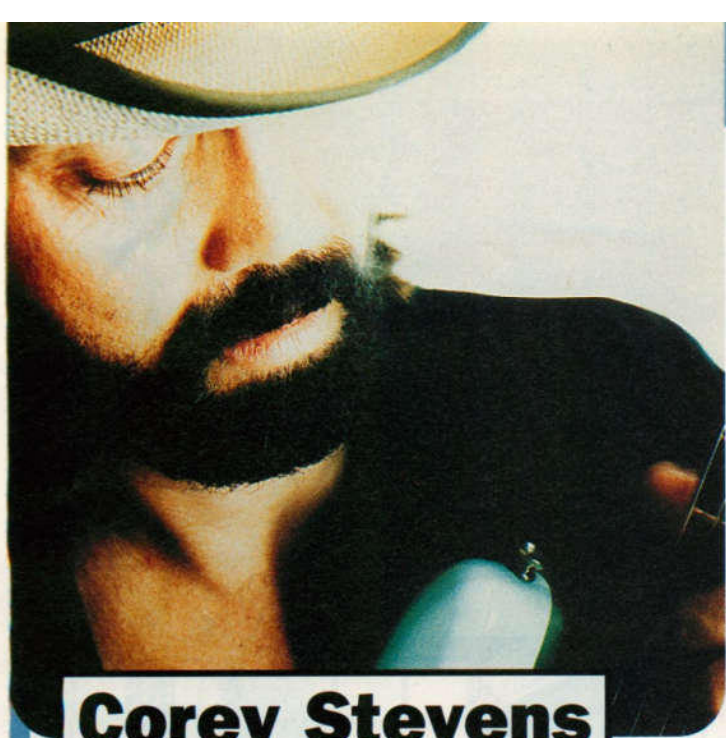
The band that brought you millions of peaches, peaches for free, is back with one of the rockin'est, wackiest, *sproingy*-est albums of the year. The Presidents' second album, cleverly titled *II* (Columbia), is a groovy, infectious collection of overdriven sing-along ditties that boasts a bigger sound than the band's debut; Dederer even went so far as to add a couple of extra strings to his trademark three-string guitbass. And get this: there are guitar solos! "I got to stretch out à la Lenny Kravitz," says Dederer.

Well, not exactly like Lenny Kravitz, but a Kravitzian devotion to the over-the-top arrangement styles of the Seventies does show up in some neatly staged swirls of Fender Rhodes, piano and pedal-steel from singer Chris Ballew.

Still, the stripped-down foundation of the band—two minimalist guitars and three manic guys singing ridiculous three-part harmonies—is never obscured for long. "We tried to keep things simple," says Dederer. "We wanted to bring more sounds into it without getting too crazy."

What, the guitarist is asked, if the album fails to match the double-Platinum success of its predecessor?

"If it's all over in two years," says Dederer, "I'll be perfectly happy to play music with my friends, or get a job if I have to. I'm thankful to have had this episode in my life."



Corey Stevens

vaughannabe *By Alan Paul*

FANS CONSTANTLY ASK Illinois native Corey Stevens what part of Texas he's from. It's an understandable mistake, for everything about Stevens, from his wide-brimmed black hat and turquoise rings to his searing, slightly overdriven Strat sound, evokes the late Good Texan Stevie Ray Vaughan in both style and sound.

"I think Stevie Ray was the best, and a lot of people agree with me," says the guitarist. "It's really uncomfortable for me to even discuss my relationship to his music; it ends up sounding either inaccurate or corny. I don't know if it was a spiritual thing or what, but all I can tell you is I got a lot better after he died."

Stevens celebrates his mysterious improvement on his debut album, *Blue Drops of Rain* (Discovery), a collection of blues tunes redolent of Vaughan, Albert King and Eric Clapton. Stevens recorded it two years ago to sell at his shows and disseminate abroad in hopes of landing some foreign gigs. Instead, the tiny Los Angeles indie label Eureka picked it up, selling enough copies to make some regional charts and attract the attention of Discovery Records, who have re-released the album, bringing Stevens to an ever-increasing national audience.

"There are many out there who love Clapton and Stevie Ray and aren't getting enough of it," Stevens says. "I'm happy to fill that niche. I was nervous about how the SRV fans would react to me, but mostly they think I'm carrying his torch. They tell me all the time that Stevie must be smiling down on me. Thankfully, they're not expecting anyone as good. There's nothing terribly original about my music, but I'm just trying to touch people. After all, if you don't have an audience, you've got nothing."

whammy bar

DAVID LEE ROTH, SAMMY HAGAR, GARY CHERONE... We're starting to feel a little confused over this game of **VAN HALEN** frontman musical chairs. Maybe things would be clearer if, in the future, Van Halen's name was changed to accommodate whoever happened to be the lead singer of the band at that moment. Here are some potential lead singers, and possible concomitant band names: Van Halen + Darius Rucker = **VAN HOOTIE**; Van Halen + Morrissey = **VAN MORRISEY**; Van Halen + Lou Reed = **VAN HEROIN**; Van Halen + Scott Weiland = **VAN METHADONE**; Van Halen + Christopher Cross = **VAN SAILIN'**; Van Halen + Rick James = **VAN JAILIN'**; Van Halen + Bob Weir = **VW VAN**; Van Halen + Chevy Chase = **CHEVY VAN**; Van Halen + Satan = **VAN DAMNED**... Any suggestions of your own? Mail them to *Guitar World*, attention Van?, 1115 Broadway, New York, NY, 10010. The best five submissions

Monkees Reunite

daydream believers *By Gary Graff*

THE NEWLY RELEASED *Justus* (Rhino) marks the first time that the Monkees, the original pre-fab four—Davy Jones, Mickey Dolenz, Mike Nesmith and Peter Tork—have made music together since 1968. And while the other three have spent some of the past decade hawking Monkees oldies like so many bunches of Chiquitas, guitarist Mike Nesmith rejects the notion that he's been a hold-out.

"That was an unfortunate perception. It wasn't true," says Nesmith, who was busy making the film *Square Dance* when the Monkees' first MTV-fueled reunion tour hit the road in 1986.

"In my own mind, I've always been a part of the group," he says. In fact, it was Nesmith who picked up the phone to get everyone together for *Justus*, inspired by a chance listen to the song "Circle Sky," from the group's film *Head*.

"He called and asked if we wanted to get together and play some Monkees thrash—the kind of music we play," says Tork. "We turned up our amps, played as loud as we wanted and it was right there, no problems. It was as good as it ever was."

Justus slams open with the group's new take of "Circle Sky," and the energy level never falters. Now the Monkees are talking about a possible tour (Hendrix is unavailable; opening acts should apply now) and maybe another Monkees film. Not bad for a band that—as Nesmith likes to point out—doesn't exist.

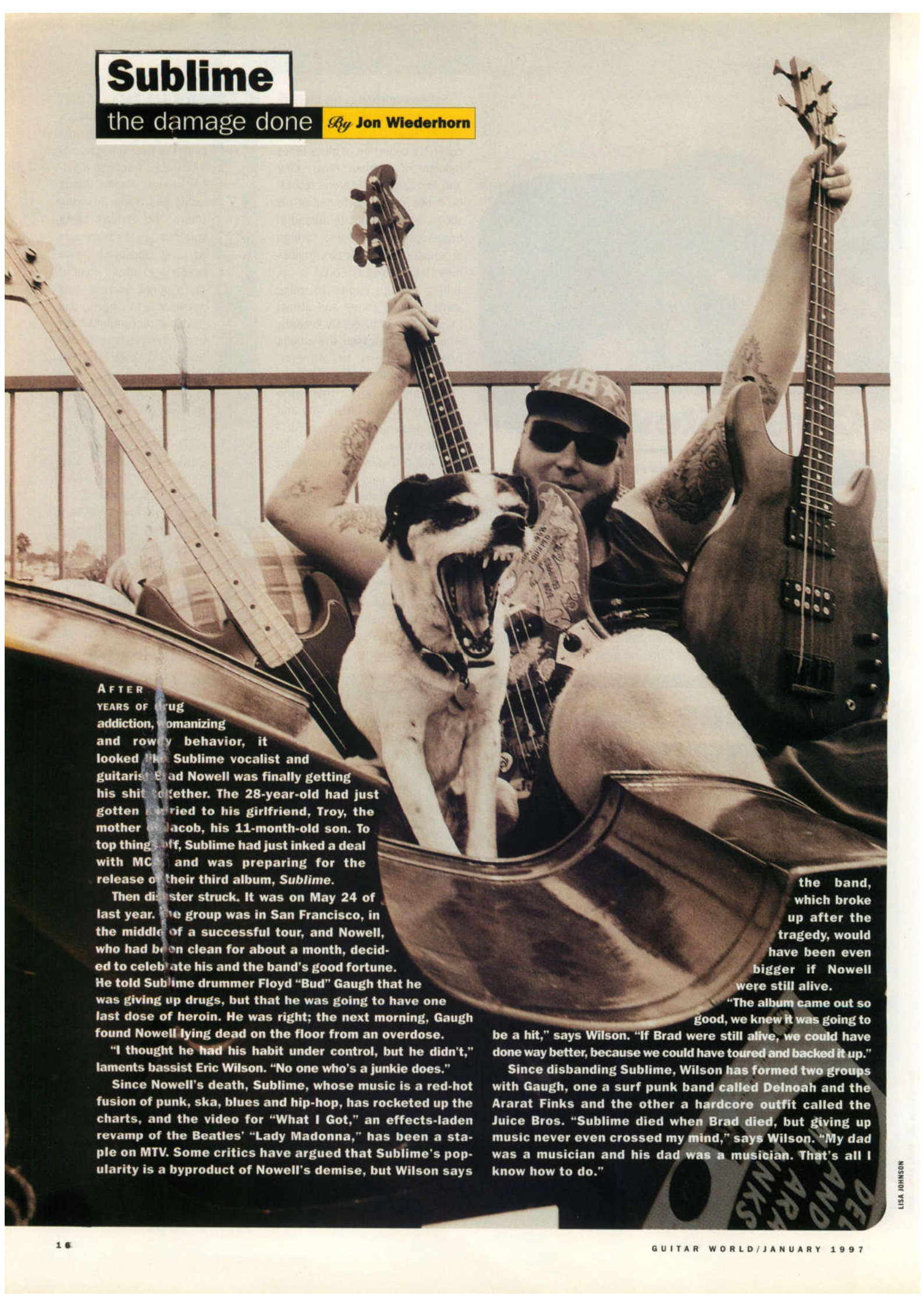
"There really is no Monkees, is there?" he says with a laugh. "It's really a television show, and the Monkees can never exist outside the framework of that television show. Each of us is comfortable in our role as one of the Monkees, but *role* is an important word. Mickey's take is that we're kind of like Spinal Tap."



Mark Tork

Sublime

the damage done *By Jon Wiederhorn*



AFTER YEARS OF drug addiction, womanizing and rowdy behavior, it looked like Sublime vocalist and guitarist Brad Nowell was finally getting his shit together. The 28-year-old had just gotten married to his girlfriend, Troy, the mother of Jacob, his 11-month-old son. To top things off, Sublime had just inked a deal with MCA and was preparing for the release of their third album, *Sublime*.

Then disaster struck. It was on May 24 of last year. The group was in San Francisco, in the middle of a successful tour, and Nowell, who had been clean for about a month, decided to celebrate his and the band's good fortune. He told Sublime drummer Floyd "Bud" Gaugh that he was giving up drugs, but that he was going to have one last dose of heroin. He was right; the next morning, Gaugh found Nowell lying dead on the floor from an overdose.

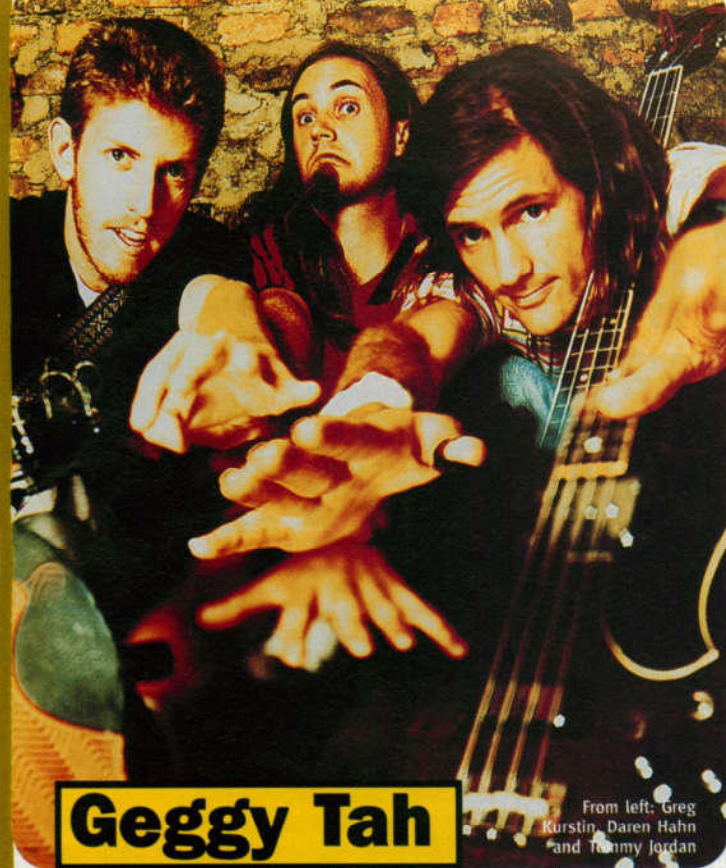
"I thought he had his habit under control, but he didn't," laments bassist Eric Wilson. "No one who's a junkie does."

Since Nowell's death, Sublime, whose music is a red-hot fusion of punk, ska, blues and hip-hop, has rocketed up the charts, and the video for "What I Got," an effects-laden revamp of the Beatles' "Lady Madonna," has been a staple on MTV. Some critics have argued that Sublime's popularity is a byproduct of Nowell's demise, but Wilson says

the band, which broke up after the tragedy, would have been even bigger if Nowell were still alive.

"The album came out so good, we knew it was going to be a hit," says Wilson. "If Brad were still alive, we could have done way better, because we could have toured and backed it up."

Since disbanding Sublime, Wilson has formed two groups with Gaugh, one a surf punk band called Del Noah and the Ararat Finks and the other a hardcore outfit called the Juice Bros. "Sublime died when Brad died, but giving up music never even crossed my mind," says Wilson. "My dad was a musician and his dad was a musician. That's all I know how to do."



Geggy Tah

drive time

By Jeff Colchamiro

THE FIRST THING most people notice about Geggy Tah is their odd lyrics. In "Whoever You Are," the breakthrough single from the band's sophomore album, *Sacred Cow* (Luaka Bop/Warner Bros.), the song's narrator thanks a driver for allowing him to change lanes on the highway.

"The song's success is helping

us get to our gigs on time," guitarist Greg Kurstin chuckles. "When we're driving now, we can just say, 'Don't you know who we are? Let us through!'"

But people are taking note of the band for more than just the unusual subject matter of their lyrics; their music is a unique stew of diverse instruments and

sounds. "Whoever You Are," for example, features a catchy pop vocal melody, a hip-hop beat... and a trumpet solo.

"We didn't make a conscious effort to add a lot of different elements," Kurstin explains. "We crave certain sounds, and we just use whatever we have."

Sacred Cow was recorded in "the big bedroom" of bassist and vocalist Tommy Jordan's house (their self-titled debut was recorded in "the little bedroom"), and features Kurstin and Jordan on a variety of instruments, including button organ, trumpet, clavinet, piano, cello, violin and triangle. The result is a wacky, lighthearted collection of tunes that are all over the musical map, but still have a common sound and spirit held together by Jordan's melodic vocals.

Kurstin and Jordan both listen to a wide variety of music, ranging from classical to jazz to modern rock, styles that find their way into the Geggy Tah sound. "My favorite place to shop for music is garage sales, where you can get 20 records for two dollars," Jordan says. "I find some gems in there."

"Milli Vanilli was a big influence, too," he whispers conspiratorially. "Greg and I are secretly the modern Milli Vanilli. No one's found us out yet."

whammy bar

will win a cool prize...

In the wake of Gary Cherone's departure, **EXTREME** have called it quits. Expect a solo album from **NUNO BETTENCOURT** in the near future.

The music of **ROBERT JOHNSON**, "the King of The Delta Blues," has been reborn in Columbia/Legacy's newly remastered and reconfigured edition of the essential *Robert Johnson—The Complete Recordings*. Approximately three years



ago, superior new source recordings of Johnson's late-Thirties sides were discovered deep in the bowels of the Iron Mountain storage facility in upstate New York. Thanks to these sources, as well as some excellent-quality 78 r.p.m. records

Steve Vai

classical gasp

By Chris Gill

EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL as the 65 members of the Kilbourn Orchestra assembled onstage at the Eastman Theatre, in Rochester, New York, last September 28. But the stack of Marshall and Bogner amplifiers near the cello section hinted that it was not going to be an evening of Bach, Mozart or Stravinsky. Instead of showcasing the talents of a world-class violinist, internationally renowned pianist or legendary tenor that night, conductor Joel Thome had chosen to spotlight the work of a different kind of virtuoso—guitarist Steve Vai.

"I've wanted to do this since I was six years old," says Vai. "It's great to play with my band, but it's overwhelming to hear my music performed by a 65-piece orchestra." In addition to the orchestra, Vai was accompanied by Phillip Bynoe on bass and Mike Mangini on drums. The symphony performed several of Vai's songs, as well as a couple of Frank Zappa compositions and Thome's original piece, "Vibrations," which he wrote especially for the event. Titled *Soundcurrent: A Musical Celebration*, the concert marked the first time Vai's music was performed



by a symphony orchestra.

Vai was a member of the late Frank Zappa's band when he first met Thome during a performance of the conductor's *Tribute to Edgar Varèse*, which was hosted by Zappa. Later, Vai and Thome collaborated on the Grammy award-winning *Zappa's Universe* concert, and in 1995 Vai and the Seattle Symphony performed Thome's arrangement of Zappa's "Sofa." Vai and Thome are planning a national tour of the *Soundcurrent* program for 1997.

ON THE RECORD

BY J.D. CONSIDINE

Classic
Rock Albums
Revisited

THE DOORS

ABSOLUTELY LIVE (ELEKTRA, 1970)

PRODUCED BY PAUL A. ROTHCHILD

PLAYING LIVE was always something the Doors did well, but as the band moved from clubs to halls to arenas, its concert dynamic changed. "When we were playing clubs, it was very much like a jazz thing," recalls guitarist Robbie Krieger. "But after a while, it got kind of wild."

This wasn't mere teen hysteria, either. "We had some teeny-boppers, but the Doors' show was not like that," says Krieger. "In fact, a lot of the time, the audience would just be dead silent, just sitting there in disbelief or something. Sometimes, after the show, they would just walk out of the room without even applauding. They were kind of dazed."

Naturally, Elektra Records was keen to capture some of that magic on record. So two multi-tracks were taken out on the road between August 1969 and June 1970, recording shows in 10 cities.

But as Krieger explains, what the band wanted to get on tape and what the label hoped to convey wasn't necessarily the same. "We weren't looking to make the image of the Doors any wilder than it already was," he says. "We, the musicians— me, John [Densmore, drums] and Ray [Manzarek, keyboards] — were mainly interested in getting the best take of the songs down so it could go on the record."

"The producer, Paul Rothchild, was more into the image thing, and he spent a lot of time looking for little things—in-between-the-song snippets that would give the listener more of a feel of what being at a Doors concert was like."

The band's desire to document perfect takes had its drawbacks. For one thing, the Doors took a lot of chances onstage, particularly with newer material. "A lot of our songs were really developed quite a bit onstage," says Krieger. "For instance, 'The End,' which turned out to be the big 12-minute thing, started out as a little two-minute love song Jim and I wrote one day over at my house. It kept growing because we would play it onstage."

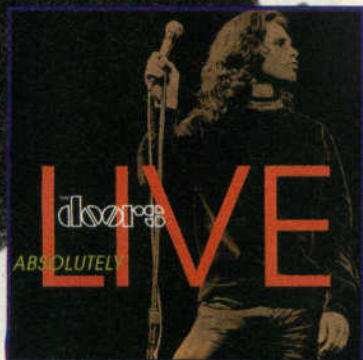
Of course, that growth process meant the band would occasionally take a wrong turn or wind up at harmonic cross-purposes, and that wasn't the sort of thing Krieger and his bandmates wanted to document. "In those days, we were very conscious about perfection—no mistakes, that type of thing," he says. "Obviously, some of the newer stuff hadn't been worked out that much, so we ended up just using most of the stuff that had already been out."

Does this mean he'd do it differently today? "Yeah," he says. "I think we would have chosen some different takes, and related more to feel than perfection of musical notes. There are a couple of live takes that we didn't use that we're probably going to put out on a box set. There's one take of 'The End' that's really good, and there's one of 'Celebration of the Lizard.'"

Krieger adds that he still has trouble squaring the sound of *Absolutely Live* with what he himself heard onstage with the Doors. "It's a whole different thing," he says. "Totally. When you're up there, and everything's loud and everything's moving, you get that interaction. It was really impressive. We didn't have the big P.A. systems like they do today, but I would say that, onstage, we were just as loud as any band is today. I mean, I had two cabinets, each of which had, like, 1,200 watts. Our soundman, Vince Treanor, made our amps and stuff."

"When you hear a tape being played back, you're hearing it more from the audience's point of view. It's just a whole different sound. In fact, when I heard the stuff back, it sounded kind of sterile. It was all close-miked, and to me, didn't really capture the sound of the live Doors."

"Maybe it's impossible to capture the real sound of the Doors on tape, at least not as I heard it onstage. Because onstage, you're hearing music being played out of what, even in those days, was probably 500 square inches of speakers moving air. At home on your stereo, you'd get maybe a tenth of that. So it doesn't have the same effect."





Social Distortion

white power *By David Grad*

"If I CARED WHAT people thought, I would be still pushing a mop," says Social Distortion's Mike Ness. His defiant attitude is reflected in the band's sixth album,

White Light, White Heat, White Trash (Epic/550), a scorching combination of power chords and attitude that rages with enough primal rock fire to consume the current generation of trendy punk wannabes right down to their costly Doc Martens.

Reflecting on Social Distortion's 16-year history, the band's lead guitarist, vocalist and songwriter laughs at the notion that they could do what they do any differently. "The last thing I wanted to write was a cute alternative record," he says. "This album is about going back to the genuine emotion and rock basics that fueled the first wave of punk."

Ness cites The Rolling Stones, Ramones and X as the influences behind Social Distortion's 1983 masterpiece, *Mommy's Little Monster* (Mainline). "I think that, sound-wise, *White Light, White Heat, White Trash* is a regression back to that first record, and that you can hear us grabbing hold of our roots. But it's an evolution as well, because I had to dig really deep. You can hear that on songs like 'I Was Wrong' and 'When the Angels Sing,' which deal with sin and redemption, inner conflict, good and bad."

"Going back to basics" was also the philosophy underlying the album's recording process, so producer Michael Bienhorn used nothing but analog and vintage equipment in the studio. Ness says that while cutting the guitar tracks, he used a '68 Gold Top reissue with P-90 pickups, a few SG reissues and a Silvertone through a variety of Fenders, Marshalls and Soldanos. "Me and [fellow guitarist] Dennis Danell really wanted to get an in-your-face sound," says Ness. "Something with a bottom end that would hit you right in the chest."



and Sony's new 20-bit Super Bit Mapping mastering process, the new set, produced by LARRY COHN, sounds so warm you'll want to sell your soul to the devil to have it. Also new from Legacy is a new edition of one of the great fingerpicking collections of all time, *Avalon Blues: The Complete 1928 Okeh Recordings* by MISSISSIPPI JOHN HURT. The gentle Hurt's melodic, deceptively simple style is among the most appealing in all bluesdom.

SPACE IS THE PLACE: ACE FREHLEY now has his own high tech web site (ACE-FREHLEY.COM) that features up-to-the-minute Ace info, real time audio, online guitar lessons and hot contests. ACE-FREHLEY.COM also features a specially designed search engine that allows the user to plunder the site's archives with the greatest of ease.

Yoshiko Hirashige

live from new york *By Meredith Ochs*



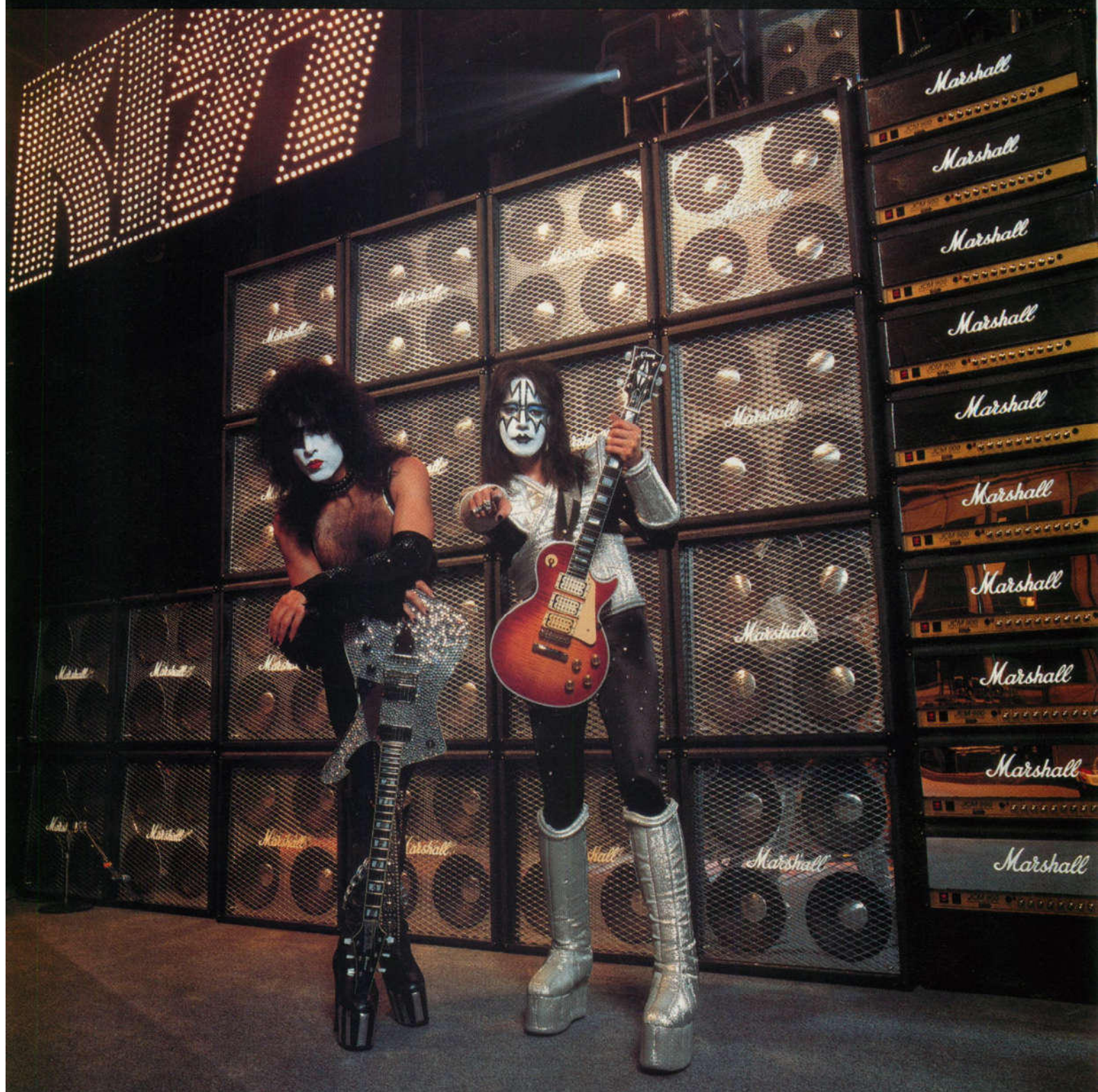
GUESTS WHO ENTER Yoshiko Hirashige's New York City apartment remove their shoes at the door in traditional Japanese style. But Yoshiko, who just began her second season as guitarist for the *Saturday Night Live* house band, is not exactly a traditional Japanese woman. Unhappy with Japan's conservative culture, she moved to New York five years ago and immediately fell into the local club scene. "I had a day job in Japan and played clubs at night, but when people at my job found out I was a rocker, their attitude toward me changed," she says. "It's different here. Musicians can express themselves freely."

As a teenager in Osaka, Yoshiko idolized hard rock bands like Kiss, Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath. She'd been playing keyboards since the age of five, but switched to guitar when she put her first band together at 15. "I wanted to rock," she exclaims, "and keyboard doesn't rock!"

It was through the *Saturday Night Live* band's keyboard player, Leon Pendarvis, however, that Yoshiko came to replace G.E. Smith on the weekly show. "They were looking for a female guitarist, and they wanted someone who was playing in the clubs, not another studio musician," says Yoshiko. Pendarvis knew of her work with two New York-based bands, Crave and D-Cup. "I didn't really audition," she says. "We just jammed."

As a member of the *SNL* band, Yoshiko learns five or six new songs every Saturday afternoon—the only time the band gets together to practice—for that night's performance. "It's easy to read the chart, but hard to get the vibe of each song right with that little rehearsal," she says. Even harder is keeping a straight face with *SNL*'s laugh-a-minute cast on hand. "When they act funny in front of me, it's difficult to play well," she says. "I can't help myself from laughing."

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OZZY TNC.

By Jeff Kitts

The godfather of metal gets down to business with a new record label and a traveling hard rock circus.



FOR AN AGING metal god who's threatened retirement more times than George Foreman, Ozzy Osbourne shows no signs of slowing down. With plans to start his own record label and to reprise this year's successful Ozz Fest tour next summer, Ozzy is a man possessed. His mission: to revive hard music from its post-grunge doldrums.

"People keep telling me that this kind of music is over, but I haven't noticed it at all," says Osbourne. "To be honest, it's kind of embarrassing having a tour named after you, but the upside of that is that at least the fans know what they're gonna get. You know you won't see some folk singer singing about the fucking rain that never comes down on my tour."

The label, Ozz Records, is actually a joint venture of Ozzy and his wife/manager Sharon Osbourne, with Ozzy in charge of discovering new talent and Sharon handling the business affairs. "Believe me," says Osbourne, "I am no businessman. I mean, how can you be an artist and a calculator at the same time?" Frustrated with the high-stakes corporate world of major record companies, Ozzy envisions his label to be small, intimate and artist-driven.

"There's a lot of talent out there, and I don't see how a guy in a pinstripe suit sitting in a fucking office pushing buttons to get his coffee could possibly know what's going on in

music," says Osbourne. "Right now it's only me and Sharon, and soon we'll have an office and a small staff. But it won't be some big empire. I have no desire to have a company like Gefen or Sony with lots of elevators, ID checkpoints and metal detectors—this will be a rock and roll label, not an airport.

"I just want to do something besides being Ozzy, you know? Because when I finish this tour, what I'll do is go home, play with my dogs and ride my motorcycles, and do my little bits and pieces and I'll be bored shitless."

Ozzy has done his best to keep the metal banner flying high by touring with some of the genre's most reputable warriors. Since hitting the road in September, 1995 in support of his *Ozzmosis* album, he has toured and played with such artists as Slayer, Biohazard, Fear Factory, Korn, Filter and the Rollins Band, concluding this fall with the inaugural six-week Ozz Fest package, which features Danzig and Sepultura.

"The Ozz Fest was a total gamble and it paid off real big," says Osbourne. "This tour has done incredible business. Now you'll see the tour grow from here, year in and year out, even if I don't play on it all the time." And while the bands for next summer's Ozz Fest have yet to be determined, headbangers should rest easy knowing that the man who all but invented metal is at the helm.

GUITAR WORLD: How did the idea of forming your own record label come about?

OZZY OSBOURNE: Sharon and I started talking about doing our own label because of the experiences we've both had over the years with big record companies. We both feel that it could be done so much easier and more fun. I mean, I started out making music for fun, and now I'm a part of this huge corporate Sony empire. Personally, I'm somewhat of a recluse, in the sense that I don't drink or stay out all fucking night anymore. I don't really know what's going on in the music world, but I know what I like. And I just want to get some good music going again and have some fun doing it.

GW: Are you frustrated with the corporate music world?

OSBOURNE: I am a bit, and the reason is because it seems to me that music has been taken away from the rightful owners, which are the musicians. *Ozzmosis* [Epic, 1995] was one of the finest pieces of recorded work I ever did, but it was also very sterile. I like records where you know that there's a human being playing that fucking guitar—records that sound like bands do live. But when I first started recording in the early Seventies with Black Sabbath, we were left to our own devices. We would just go into a studio, plug in and play. With all this technology and computers nowadays that tell

OSZY OSBOURNE

you when to take a piss, it's not music to me. I didn't become a rock and roll singer so I could be a computer expert. Recording has become like a surgical operation, and it really shouldn't be that way. My father told me many years ago that if you have a melody that people can remember, you've got a song. And that's what I want to do; bring some melody and some fun back into music.

GW: Any other gripes about the music industry you'd like to share?

OSBOURNE: Oh...You've got people shooting each other now, shooting themselves, people with no direction. The industry seems to have run out of ideas, and they're desperate for a

new craze. The industry's idea of making something good is to spend lots of money, and that's bullshit when you consider that the first Black Sabbath album was recorded on two 4-track machines in 12 hours, and it still sells to this day. I like rough, raggy-sounding records, and now everything's too sterile and lacking in human spirit.

GW: Are you still happy being a part of the corporate Sony empire?

OSBOURNE: Well...I'd rather not answer questions about that because I am still signed to the label. They've always done right by me, so I'm about as happy as I can be. Besides, I can't exactly see them letting me go...Can you?

GW: How will you go about finding bands to sign?

OSBOURNE: While I am looking for new talent, this is not an excuse for every fucking guitar player, singer or band to send me a thousand tapes. When Jake E. Lee left the band in the Eighties, I got so many fucking tapes I couldn't walk through my hallway. I'm on a sort of casual quest to find new bands. Right now I'm in the process of building an inexpensive studio in London—you can get analog machines quite cheaply now. Hell, I've got some demos I did on a simple 4-track, and the quality is just as good as these fucking 99-track DAT machines. The energy is there, you know?

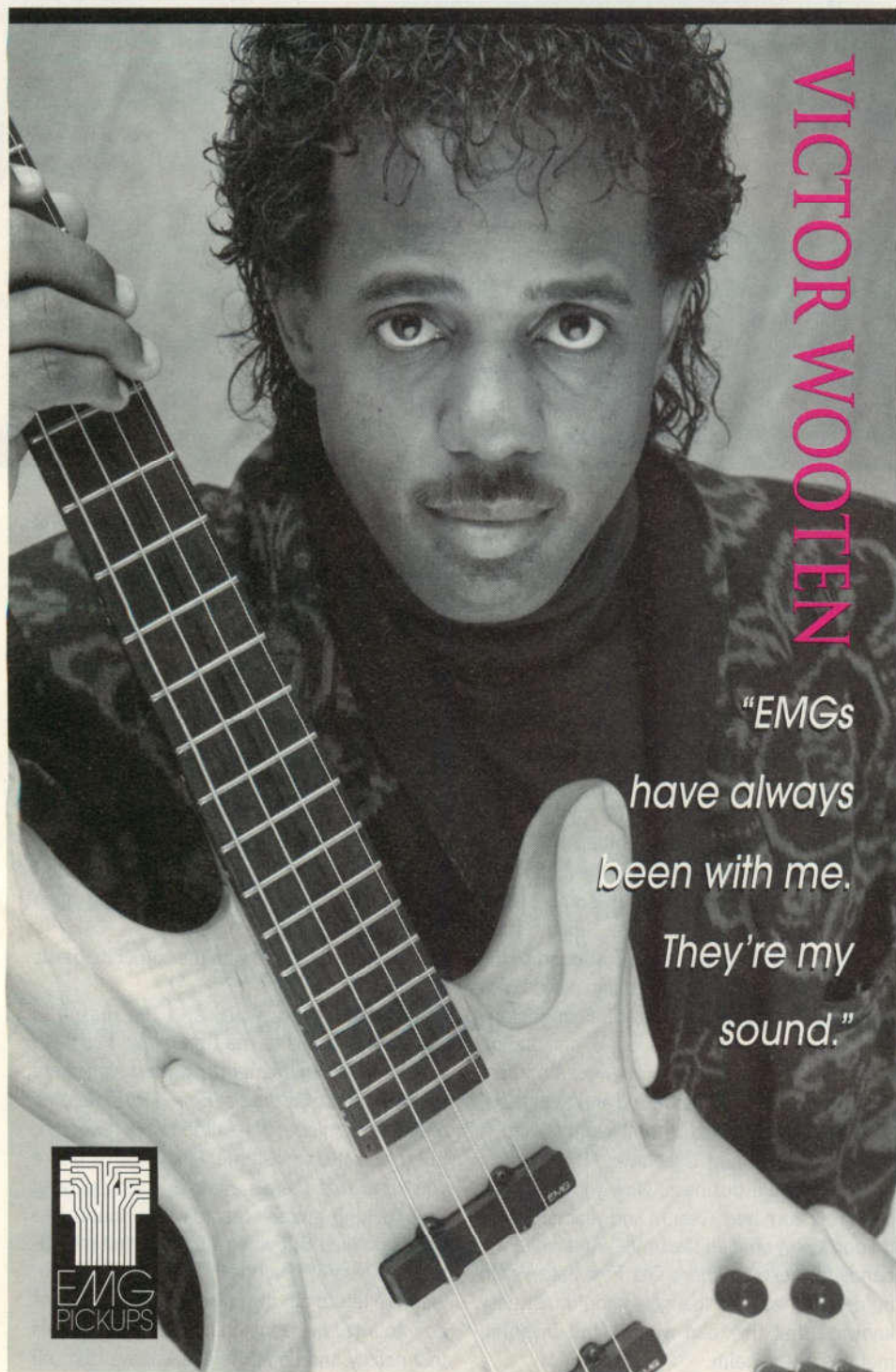
GW: You and Sharon seem to have a strong working relationship.

OSBOURNE: We're a great team. I'm a singer-songwriter, and my wife, God bless her soul, takes the burden of business off me because I'm damn clueless when it comes to that stuff. Sharon never gets to sleep—she's the hardest-working person I know. I told her the other day, "Sharon, you're gonna have to get somebody else to take some of the load off you, because when this record company really does start up, you're gonna blow a fucking fuse." I think it all comes a bit more naturally for Sharon because she was born into it; her father was a big-time promoter at Jet Records, and she comes from a show business family. Jet Records was very successful in a small way, which is how I want my label to be. I don't want to have more than two or three acts being handled by one person at a time. I want to have a more family-style atmosphere where people feel comfortable doing business and having meetings.

Sharon also has a very good eye for talent. I sometimes do, but she's great at it. When you see Ozzy Osbourne, the image, the clothes, the vibe, the photos and videos, those are mostly my wife's doing. She's very good at creating an image. She could take a guy off the street and, if he's got a good voice, transform him into a star. I don't take the credit for much of anything because she could run rings around me with one sentence.

GW: Will you have the final say when it comes to signing bands?

OSBOURNE: Oh, yeah. But you have to remember, the more bands you sign, the more people you have to employ and the more taxes and salaries you have to pay. At the end of the day you're just flooding the market with bands. It ends up being a crapshoot, and I don't want my label to be like that. Take Alanis Morissette—she signed to Madonna's label [*Maverick*], which doesn't have too many bands, and now Alanis has the biggest selling debut album [by a female artist] in history. That's what I love: the unpredictability of this business. And it's not about money—money can't write a good song.

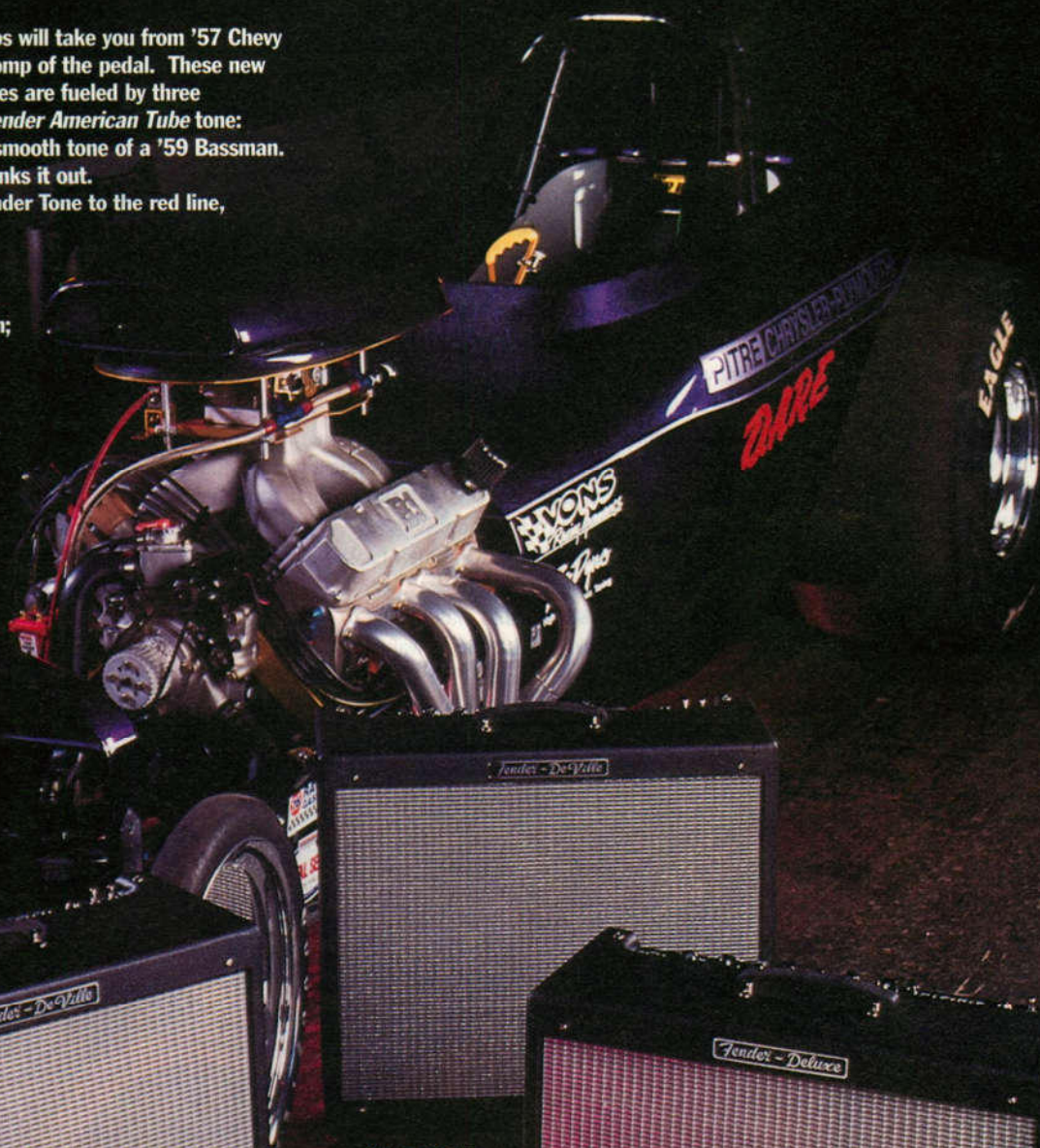


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OSZY OSBOURNE

GW: Do you think it's become too easy for bands to get signed?

OSBOURNE: I don't know, but one thing I have noticed is that all these big labels like Geffen, Atlantic and Sony have all become so corporate, there's nothing rock and roll about them anymore. Imagine a 20-year-old kid who just got signed going up to one of these offices—it's like visiting the Stock Exchange. Everybody seems to be a vice president of this or a vice president of that, and I don't know what it all means. The other thing is that kids today are much more educated about the record company business. When I first started with Sabbath, we got absolutely, totally ripped off. We got money, but we never saw a royalty statement or knew where our money was going or anything. So, what better person to run a record company than a person like myself who's been through all of that, and knows what an artist needs? I want the artists to have a say in what they need. At this label, the artist is number one, unless he's a drugged-out, fucked-up idiot. And whoever we sign, I guarantee that we will put 199 million percent of our effort into making it work.

GW: Other artists have tried to start labels in the past, like Gene Simmons' Simmons Records and the Beatles' Apple Records, and many have failed.

OSBOURNE: Yeah, but it's better to have tried

and failed than to never have tried at all, you know? I admire Gene Simmons because he's not afraid to try new things, and starting a record label is a really big leap. It's not like saying, "Oh, I think I'll have a bar of chocolate and start my own record label." There's a lot of preparation and a lot of your own money that you have to invest into it, and if it fails, you're going to lose big time. It's not a hot dog stand. I may be the next one to start a label and fail, but I feel like I want to give it a try, you know? If it fails, then I'll just lick my wounds and go on.

GW: Will you be looking for artists who play music other than metal?

OSBOURNE: First of all, I've always hated the term "heavy metal." We didn't start Black Sabbath and say, "Right, we're gonna play metal." We just played scary music, and at some bright spot we called it heavy metal and it went on from there. As soon as you put a tag on something you're fucked, because when the flavor of the month is over and your music isn't in vogue anymore, that's it. But yes, this will not be just a metal or hard music label.

GW: How did the idea for the Ozz Fest come about?

OSBOURNE: I was talking to Sharon, and she said, "Fuck this, I want to do the Ozz Fest." And I said, "What do you mean?" She said that since radio and MTV had stopped playing

our type of music, I, as one of the founding forefathers of what they call "metal," should do something for the people that still like it.

GW: Do you know which bands you might be touring with next year?

OSBOURNE: To be perfectly honest with you, I think I've got about six shows left on this tour, and—please don't take offense—I really don't give a shit who I tour with next year. *[laughs]* I've been on the road for 18 months and I'm just about ready to jump in a pine box.

GW: What is it about touring with a package that appeals to you?

OSBOURNE: I like action and lots of energy at concerts. And I like to give value for money. If the opening act steals the show, then fair enough, you know? It's just value for money.

GW: Do you have any other plans before going back on the road next year?

OSBOURNE: I believe there's an Ozzy best-of record coming out next year with three new tracks. It'll be a good trial because I've never recorded with this band, which is Joe Holmes *[guitar]*, Mike Bordin from Faith No More *[drums]* and Robert Trujillo from Suicidal Tendencies *[bass]*. You never really know someone until you work together in the studio. This one doesn't like pink, that one doesn't like flowers, he doesn't like butterflies and the other doesn't eat meat on Wednesdays—all this shit comes out in the studio. ●

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rebels with A CAUSE

By Chris Gill

Brian Setzer and the Reverend Horton Heat keep rockabilly's rowdy spirit alive.



Reverend Horton Heat (left) and Brian Setzer

WHEN ROCKABILLY MUSIC first emerged in the mid Fifties, it was considered as dangerous and degenerate as Marilyn Manson is today. The unbridled sexual energy, fast guitars and suggestive lyrics shocked parents and riled community leaders, but no one could stop the music from convincing legions of teenagers that nothing was cooler than being a rocker with a greasy pompadour, a leather jacket and an electric guitar.

Today, the spirit of rockabilly is being kept alive by a pair of rebellious guitarists—Jim Heath, a.k.a. the Reverend Horton Heat, and Brian Setzer. Setzer spearheaded the resurgence of rockabilly in the early Eighties with the Stray Cats, who achieved several Top Ten hits, including "Rock This Town," "Stray Cat Strut" and "Runaway Boys." Far from being a moldy oldies act, the Stray Cats were innovators, producing a louder, punkier version of the music popularized by rockabilly artists

like Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent and Carl Perkins during the Fifties. Although the band projected a raw and primal attitude, Setzer's jazz-inspired rhythm playing and innovative solos took the Stray Cats' music beyond the rockabilly genre and earned him the respect of guitar enthusiasts.

Setzer's current band is the Brian Setzer Orchestra, a 17-piece big band that combines powerful rock and roll with elements of swing, blues and jazz. His latest Interscope release, *Guitar Slinger*, is an energetic, vital effort, featuring several sophisticated Setzer originals, a rearranged cover of the Stray Cats' "Rumble in Brighton," a smoking version of Stevie Ray Vaughan's "The House is Rockin'" and songs copenned by the Clash's Joe Strummer. The hard-hitting horn arrangements provide the ideal backdrop for Setzer's impressively fluid solos and vast chord-melody vocabulary.

Heath's band, the Reverend Horton Heat, is a hot-rodded Nineties version of the classic rockabilly guitar, standup bass and drums trio. The band's high-octane mixture of rockabilly, punk and metal has attracted an unusually diverse group of fans. Long-haired rockers, punks with bright mohawks and flannel-clad slackers collide happily in the mosh pits at Reverend Horton Heat shows, all attracted to the trio's break-neck double-bass drum rhythms, manic slap bass and frantic power chords. Heath's guitar vocabulary borrows from styles ranging from Western swing to heavy metal (he once performed a deadpan cover of Deep Purple's "Smoke on the Water"), and he's as adept at firing off a flurry of triplet pull-offs as he is at performing a hyperspeed, Travis-picked rhythm. The Reverend Horton Heat's new Interscope album, *It's Martini Time*, encompasses several musical styles, including punked-up rockers,

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BRIAN SETZER & THE REV. HORTON HEAT

moody, Western-inspired instrumentals, classic country and smarmy cocktail rap.

The Reverend and the former Stray Cat have convened at Hollywood's Formosa Cafe, a seedy Thirties-era cocktail joint/Chinese restaurant, to discuss the relevance and importance of a genre that's entering its fifth frenetic decade of existence. As Heat and Setzer settle into a red vinyl booth, Heat stares at the photos of movie stars lining the walls and comments, "Any place that's good enough for Buddy Ebsen is good enough for me." After ordering cocktails and beers, the gentlemen proceed to explain why rockabilly still rules.

GUITAR WORLD: What was it about rockabilly that appealed to you initially?

REV. HORTON HEAT: I got into rockabilly through the back door. I was into the blues when I was a kid because there was this record store close to me. That led me to Fifties music. My first band was a Fifties band, and while I was playing with them I was trying to learn Merle Travis-style fingerpicking. My cousins were all into the Sun Records stuff—Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, that kind of thing. Later, I got into Robert Gordon and [early-Eighties British rockabilly revivalist] Shakin' Stevens.

But the biggest part of it for me was Brian Setzer. I saw the Stray Cats on this tele-

vision show, *Fridays*. When I saw Brian play I was thinkin', "Man, this is it. This is going to be huge." It inspired me to get full-tilt into it. It was inspiring to see Brian up there, rip-pin' it up on guitar. Everybody thought he was so great. The Stray Cats got huge and were the rallying point behind the whole rockabilly movement. Thanks to you and the Stray Cats, rock and roll didn't die.

BRIAN SETZER: [Raises his glass in a toast.] Cheers.

HEAT: Cheers.

GW: Brian, how did it start for you?

SETZER: I didn't come from a musical background. My dad was a construction worker and my mom was a housewife, but she loved Elvis. She had a poster of him in black leather from the '68 comeback special above the bed. Elvis's photo was the only one that my dad would allow in the bedroom.

In the early Fifties, music was a lot more regionalized. You wouldn't hear much rockabilly in New York. My dad fought in the Korean war, and he met some country guys over there and brought back some Johnny Cash and Hank Williams records, which were always around the house. He'd play them once in a while.

I first discovered rockabilly listening to the Beatles. I had the first Beatles album on the Vee Jay label [Introducing the Beatles]. My brother and I always used to play "Honey Don't," and one day my dad came in the room and sang along with it. We went, "Hey! How do you know this record?" He said, "I don't know who these guys are, but this is a song by Carl Perkins." Sure enough, we found a Carl Perkins record and said, "Wait a minute. The Beatles are doing half of this guy's repertoire." It was the same thing with the Stones. They were doing rockabilly. That led me to go out and find the originals. I was amazed to discover that it was American music.

GW: What influenced you to form the Stray Cats?

SETZER: The Sex Pistols. When *Never Mind the Bollocks* [Warner Bros., 1977] came out, I felt it had the same attitude as rockabilly. There was a lot of good and bad music on the radio at the time, but nothing like rockabilly. To me, bands like Emerson, Lake and Palmer were the culmination of the death of rock and roll—the antithesis of what I thought music was. Rock and roll wasn't about sitting around, smokin' pot in the Nassau Coliseum [the Coliseum is near Setzer's Long Island hometown—GW Ed.]. It was about getting up and shaking your fist with the band. When the Sex Pistols came along, it was like, "Wow!" Rock and roll was back.

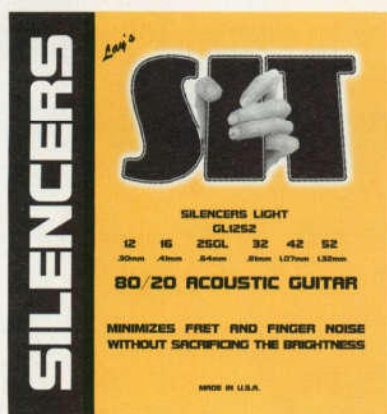
When I was about 17, I used to hang out in Manhattan at a club called Max's Kansas City. One day, somebody played a song called "Be Bop A Lula" on the jukebox, and when

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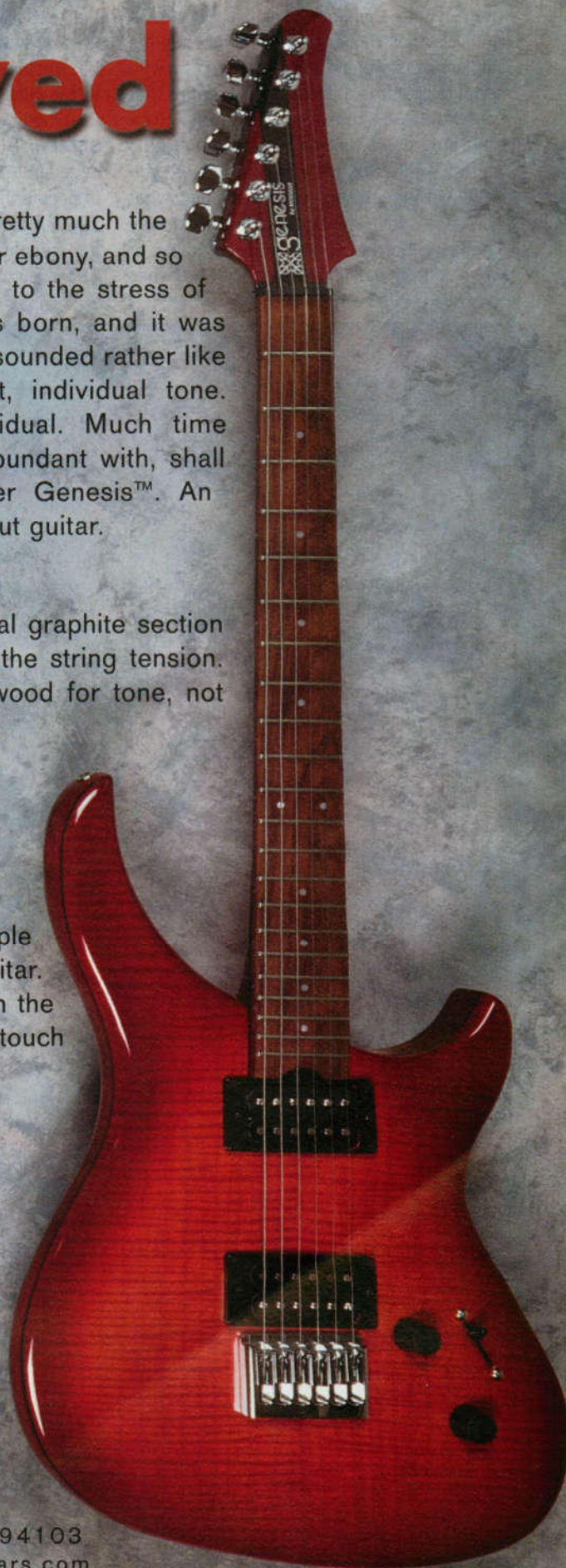
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BRIAN SETZER & THE REV. HORTON HEAT

I heard that I went, "Oh my God! What's that?" Somehow, it paralleled what the Sex Pistols were doing. That influenced me to get the Stray Cats going.

HEAT: What people don't realize about rockabilly is that those guys were the original punk rockers. People will talk about how wild some rock star is, but they don't realize that you *have* to be that way these days. Rock stars are expected to do drugs and fuck girls and all that. But back in the Fifties, you could get in really big trouble for doing what now passes for rock star behavior. When Jerry Lee Lewis burned all of his bootleg tapes or when Johnny Cash started a forest fire, they

weren't pulling off publicity stunts—they were just crazy. Those guys were wilder than Sid Vicious or Johnny Rotten ever imagined being. Rockabilly was too scary for most people. Elvis was scary; Jerry Lee Lewis was even scarier. It got squashed out in the Sixties because it was so dangerous. In the Sixties it wasn't considered cool to be a rocker. Everybody was writing these flowery songs.

SETZER: Rockabilly was wilder and more degenerate than Fifties rock and roll. A lot of people think rockabilly *is* Fifties rock and roll, but rockabilly was a lot more dangerous and suggestive. If you look at the hits of 1956, a couple of rockabilly artists got on

the charts, but the Number One song would be something like "How Much is That Doggie in the Window?" and Number Two would be "Theme From *A Summer Place*." Rockabilly wasn't about that kind of music.

HEAT: It was the original indie-rocker music. There were tons of independent labels putting out rockabilly records in the Fifties. Even in the Seventies and Eighties, rockabilly worked into the alternative thing. Bands like the Blasters played at punk rock clubs. Rockabilly has maintained its appeal because it's totally raw music.

SETZER: Even today we're alternative! Jim has a rockabilly band that has its own edge to it, and that's why he's makin' it and playing huge halls. And I've got a big band.

HEAT: That's alternative, too. No radio station is going to all of a sudden say, "Let's change our format to big band." In the early Eighties, no radio station or MTV said, "Hey, let's get a rockabilly band." It was because Brian and the Stray Cats went out there and made music that was good and entertaining. They rose above and made it so radio and MTV *had* to play the Stray Cats.

GW: Both of you have managed to keep rockabilly contemporary without losing the feel of the original music.

SETZER: It's down to the songs. Jim and I have taken it someplace else. Bands that want to sound like they're from 1956 will just be that and will play at the Palomino [*a country music nightclub in Los Angeles*] or some other small club forever. They'll wear their 1956 underwear and they won't do anything with the music.

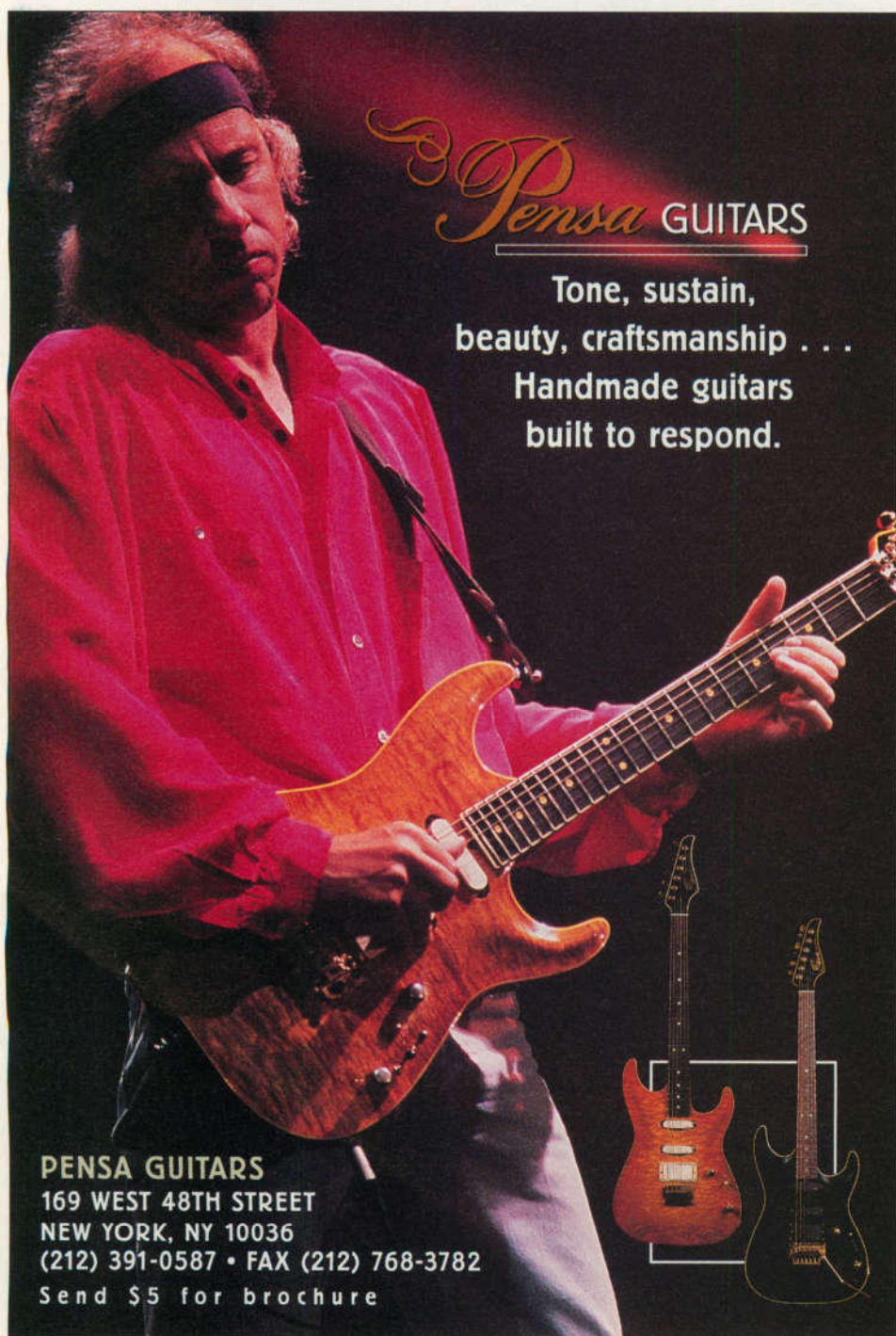
HEAT: That's true, but for my money I'd rather go see a band that's being like 1956 than some slouchers who can't really play and are just strumming an E chord.

SETZER: I didn't mean to slight the rockabilly revivalist scene too much. I love going out and seeing a kick-ass rockabilly band. I always have a great time. But some of those bands have to be a little more open to modern influences, or just *good* influences, whether they're modern or not.

I took a fresh look at music when I was writing lyrics for my last album [*Guitar Slinger*]. It's hard to write cool, tough lyrics that don't sound dated. A lot of lyrics are really lousy now. That's why I got Joe Strummer to write some stuff. He sees things from a different viewpoint. For example, we saw some cowboys playing poker in a field, and he became totally enthralled with that. I've seen that stuff before, so I don't notice it.

HEAT: It's difficult to come up with a new song that's authentic and within the style. You're always looking for words. My songs have to have lyrics that are catchy or mean-

Continued on page 198



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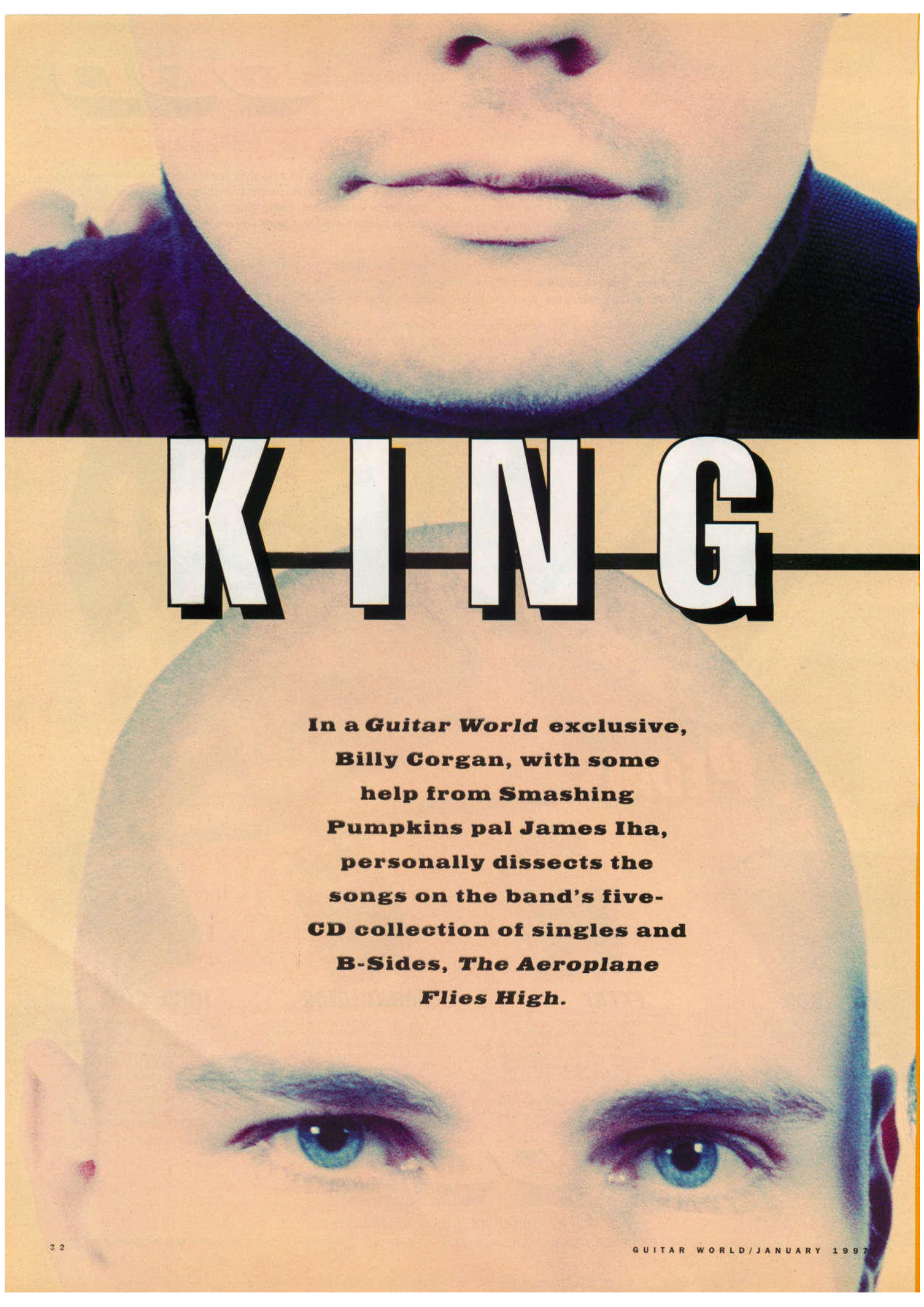
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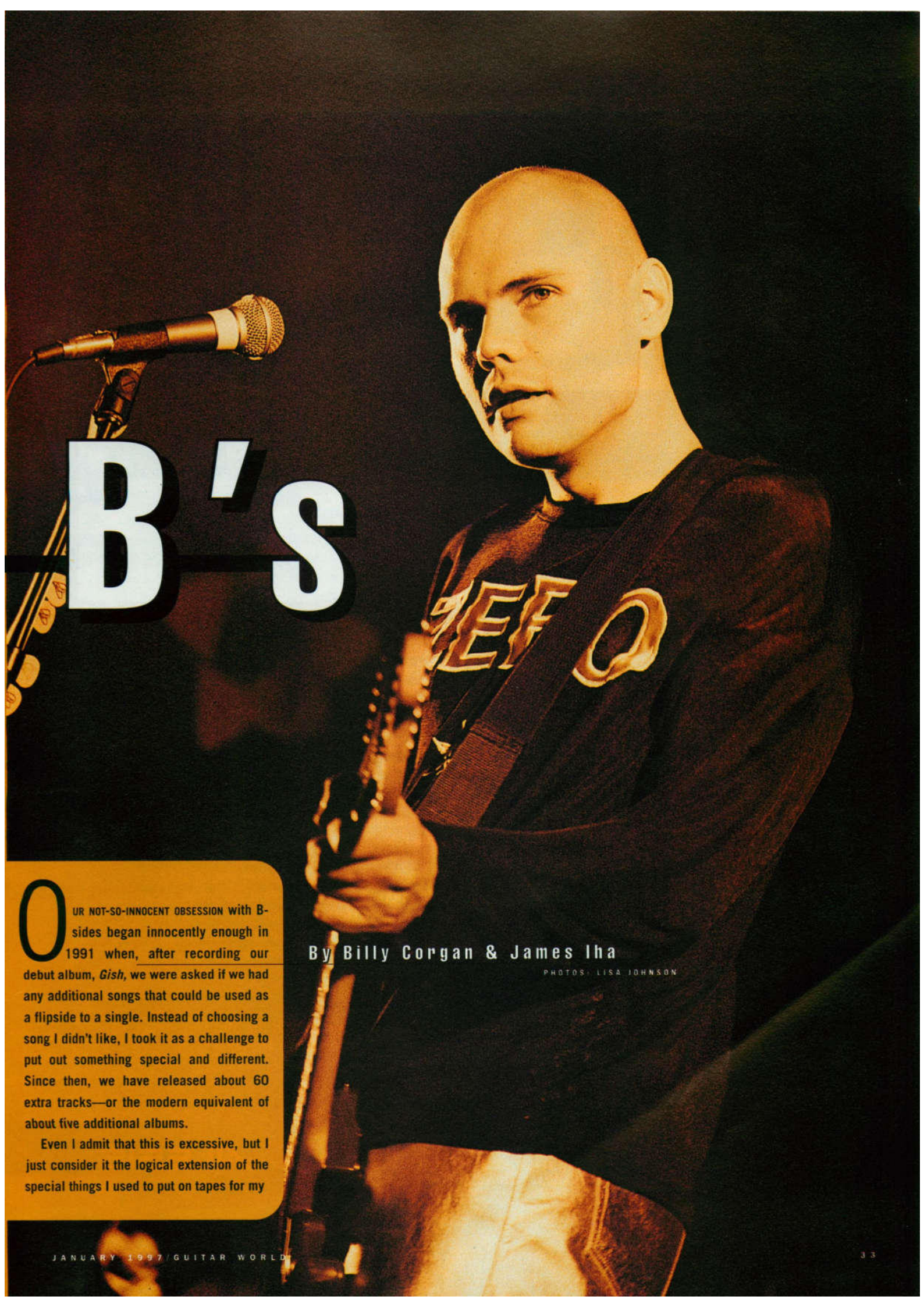
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By Billy Corgan & James Iha

PHOTOS: LISA JOHNSON

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friends. On this album, we have included everyone in by releasing almost everything that we had.

For our new singles collection, *The Aeroplane Flies High* (Virgin), we put together all 28 *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* (Virgin, 1995) B-sides in one package. There is no filler and no live tracks—just more and more and more songs. Recorded between the cracks of touring in literally every available moment and every possible situation, these songs are very much a labor of love.

Here is a track-by-track insight with James explaining his songs and me trying to explain mine.

—Billy Corgan

"The Aeroplane Flies High (Turns Left, Looks Right)"

A brief snippet of this tune, which was originally entitled "Disconnected," is found in the "Pastichio Medley." This is a *Mellon Collie* riff that I could never seem to find a change for. [Producer] Flood didn't like this one much ("too heavy metal"—a common complaint), and I never finished it until right before it was recorded. Essentially a new song with an old riff, with spoken word bits courtesy of my friends. The solo, funnily enough, was quickly thrown down because I had to go to a funeral. It was supposed to be a reference for where to pick up when I came back. But when I returned, I was surprised by how much I liked it.

"Believe"

James Iha: This was another song recorded the day after the music for the album was done. It's supposed to be an uplifting song, but it has this undercurrent of longing, depression, sadness, etc.... The opening guitar was played on a Gibson J-100XTRA, which has got this great, wide-open sound, and there's a clean electric guitar doubling it but mixed way back to give a chorusing "sparkle." There are also two bass guitar tracks on most of the song, played on a weird Epiphone bass that I bought for a hundred dollars at a pawn shop, and which also got used a lot on *Siamese Dream*. On the track, one plays chords high up and the other just plays the root notes to give it some weight.

"The Bells"

James Iha: I wrote "The Bells" two or three years ago, and each instrument was seemingly recorded about six or seven months apart—not really on purpose, but just as a demo that kept growing. I recorded the acoustic guitars at my old apartment, and then, after I moved, I recorded Eric Rem-



schneider's cello part in my basement. Then, for this single, I had another friend, Adam Schlesinger (of Fountains of Wayne and Ivy), play piano, and then D'Arcy and I did the vocals. I like the song because it is very simple but has a twist in the time signatures—sort of in the Nick Drake style.

"Blank"

A home demo recorded in my bedroom the day it was written, this one was never supposed to come out. I never really liked it much, but a lot of my friends said it was one of their favorite songs. At the last minute it replaced a song called "Towers of Rabble," because I think I liked that one even less.

"The Boy"

James Iha: This is a New Wave song that has the power-pop Jazzmaster sound. I have this late-Sixties Jazzmaster with a warped neck that looks cool but isn't really good to play. There's also this funny guitar-drum break in the middle of the song where I hang a chord and use the whammy bar. Flood liked this song but it just didn't fit the album.

"Bullet with Butterfly Wings"

Believe it or not, the original riff from this song came to me during one of the *Siamese Dream* recording sessions. Somewhere, I have a tape of us from 1993 endlessly playing the "world is a vampire" part over and over. But it wasn't until a year and a half later that I finished the song, writing the "rat in the

http:// GEEKS

Smashing Pumpkins on the web

By Beth Lewand

SMASHING PUMPKINS web pages are as plentiful as "Zero" T-shirts these days...The **Smashing Pumpkins Junction** (<http://home.sol.no/floy/music.html>), which attempts to catalog all the SP sites on the net, listed 214 at last count. It also gives you a chance to vote for your favorite, and highlights the 10 most popular.

If you'd rather not look at all 214 sites—if you have a life, that is—then the **Smashing Pumpkins Web Page** (<http://www.muohio.edu/~carmance/sp/>) should keep you glued to the keyboard for long enough. The ultimate Pumpkins site, it's bursting with SP software (fonts and wallpaper and stuff), hundreds of photos, interviews and recent band news. Find out where the Pumpkins are playing tonight on "The Pumpkin Watch," or check out the latest releases from James Iha's and D'Arcy's Scratchie label.

There are other, more specialized Pumpkins pages waiting for your point-and-clicking pleasure. The **Smashing Pumpkins Tour History** (<http://northshore.shore.net/~pmack/sp/sp.html>) lists almost every show the band has played, and comes with this disclaimer: "Nothing is too anal for this list." Send in your memories of any Pumpkins show, and you too can be a part of history.

Finally, check in at the **Smashing Pumpkins Video Center** (<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~dcho/music.html>) for clips of interviews, live performances, and music videos. The guy who runs this site responsibly warns users not to try to download any of these if your online provider charges you by the hour, since it can take anywhere from a long time to forever to download a four-minute video. But even if your computer doesn't have enough memory or modem speed to handle the downloads, you can enjoy this site's mini-animations of a few Pumpkins videos. Watch that loop of the rolling-tire sequence from "1979" for long enough, and you can get pretty dizzy—all the computer power in the world couldn't be much more fun than that. ●

SMASHING PUMPKINS

cage" part on an acoustic guitar at the BBC studios in London on the same day that "Landslide" was recorded.

"Cherry"

Of all the B-sides, this song is probably my biggest regret. I never spent as much time on it as it probably deserved, with this version showing very little improvement from the demo. This one probably should have made the album. I love its feeling and atmosphere, the warbly guitar courtesy of an effect that changes oscillation in ratio to signal input (the harder you hit it,

the faster it goes). The basic tracks were recorded during the *Mellon Collie* sessions.

"Clones (We're All)"

A fairly obscure Alice Cooper song from his early-Eighties New Waver period. It was rehearsed and recorded in about an hour. I first heard this song when a Chicago band called Radio Fashion used to play it in the late Eighties.

"Destination Unknown"

A great nihilistic song; this is the Missing Persons' lament of nothingness. I love the lyrics to this song. The first-grade techno vibe

evolved out of boredom with some of the rock and roll-y things that we'd been working on.

"Dreaming"

This is a cover of the Blondie classic from the late Seventies, with D'Arcy handling most of the vocals. We decided to do this with a breezy hippity-hop vibe, with a little Joy Division thrown in for good measure. Interestingly enough, this song was plagued with all sorts of technical problems that made mixing it a technical nightmare—vocals with electrical noises, drum loops with scratch guitars recorded over them, etc.

"God"

Forever slated as a *Mellon Collie* song-to-be, "God" just couldn't cut it in the end. The beat was probably a little too close to "Bullet," but it still rocks hard. It was tracked during the *Mellon Collie* sessions, with overdubs and vocals added much later.

"Jupiter's Lament"

This was supposed to be the *Mellon Collie* gospel song, and a rough version even exists with all the band members singing. This version is my home demo, cut on the same morning as "Stumbleine."

"The Last Song"

This is the only B-side written entirely after *Mellon Collie* was completed; I always seem to write a little burst of songs in the momentum of finishing an album (see "Drown"). I thought for a while about holding this song for our next record, but in the end I decided that it was so in the spirit of *Mellon Collie* that it was best served as an extra track. I never intended to have a guitar solo, but my father was hanging out with me at the studio, so I asked him to play on it. Every time I hear this song, I burst with pride to hear my father's great, and very influential to me, guitar playing.

"Marquis in Spades"

The band never really liked this song. They were always snickering at it, but I always liked its sheer brutality. It was recorded live on my 8-track cassette recorder, on which I've done almost all my demos since before *Gish*.

"Medellia of the Gray Skies"

Originally titled "E.P.," this song was briefly considered for *Mellon Collie* as a companion piece to "Porcelina of the Vast Oceans." I could never seem to finish the lyrics until right before it was recorded, live with my pals from The Frogs. This song turned out much more beautiful than I ever dreamed possible, teaching me yet another lesson in spontaneity.

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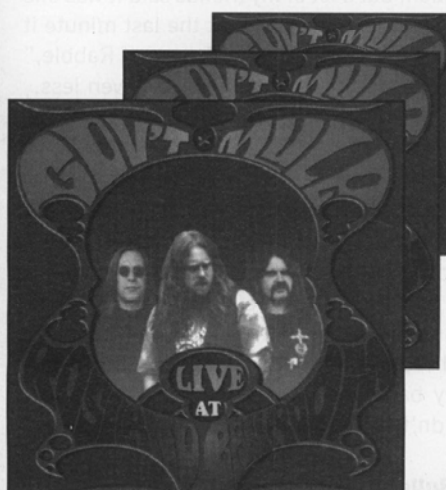
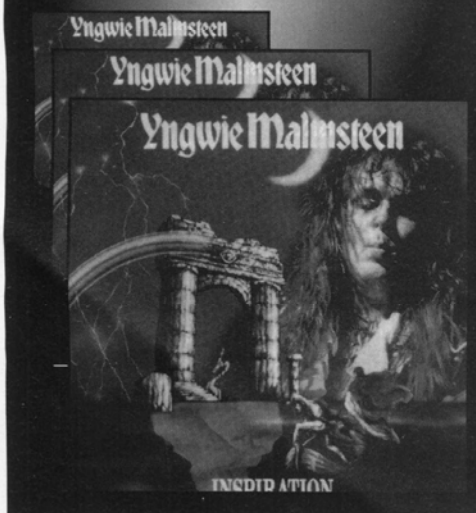
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SMASHING PUMPKINS

"Meladori Magpie"

Another believe it or not, this left-over from *Siamese Dream* was written in the last-minute crush. Butch Vig never thought much of it, but it is one of my secret favorites. A simple song of innocence that has double-tracked, finger-picked acoustic and drum machine, and was recorded at home.

"Mouth of Babes"

During the year and a half of *Siamese Dream* touring, we tried to work on all sorts of new songs. From all the endless jams and tapes, this song and "Marquis in Spades" were the only ones that survived. A favorite at soundcheck with non-lyrics forever. Another heavy metal victim, or at least too much like a *Siamese Dream* track.

"My Blue Heaven"

I've wanted to cover this song for five years, but found it impossible to learn, as I can't seem to learn anyone else's songs. Written in 1927, this song is a well-known standard: I thought about doing this more futuristically, but in the end opted to let it be beautiful in its simplicity.

"A Night Like This"

James Iha: This is one of my favorite Cure

songs, but in doing a cover we always try to change something about it. I decided to make it a slow, acoustic dirge with different drum feels for each part instead of a straight beat through the whole song. There's also a cello, which gives it a gothic feel. At the end it sorta rocks out with some Big Muff and Neil Young & Crazy Horse kind of rhythm guitars.

"1979"

The most frequently asked question about "1979" is, "What is the 'ooh-ahh-ahh' sound at the end of every phrase?" Flood and I were tracking the song, and I started humming the "oohs" like a melody line. I sang them to tape, we sampled the pertinent ones, electronically manipulated them, and looped them against the drum beat. One of my favorite songs from the album.

"Pastichio Medley"

This is our growingly infamous riff collection of practically, but not almost, every idea that was attempted for *Mellon Collie* that didn't even make B-side status. I sorted through hundreds of hours of rehearsal and album tapes, and kind of randomly ran small bits all together to create a pastiche of madness. The original titles were all used.

"Pennies"

One of those songs that I write in 10 minutes and can't seem to shake off. I like this song a lot, and find myself humming it about the house, as it is a very rare example of actual Pumpkin humor in a song. Recorded live to the 8-track cassette, with a few acoustic 12-string overdubs just to give it a little zing. This was our second choice for a take; the better take was lost when the engineer forgot to press "record."

"Rotten Apples"

A home demo that I just didn't have the heart or energy to go back and record. I like the lyrics a lot, and if I had spent more time on it it probably should have been on the album. It was written in the initial post-Lollapalooza batch ("33," "Jupiter's Lament," "Methuselah," "Ugly") of acoustically tinged songs. It has double-tracked, fingerpicked guitar—all the better to hide those little mistakes—with a few choice keyboard overdubs bleeding through the vocal mikes.

"Said Sadly"

James Iha: A fun song to write and record. It's sort of my version of a country duet song. I recorded this the day after we finished the

Continued on page 104

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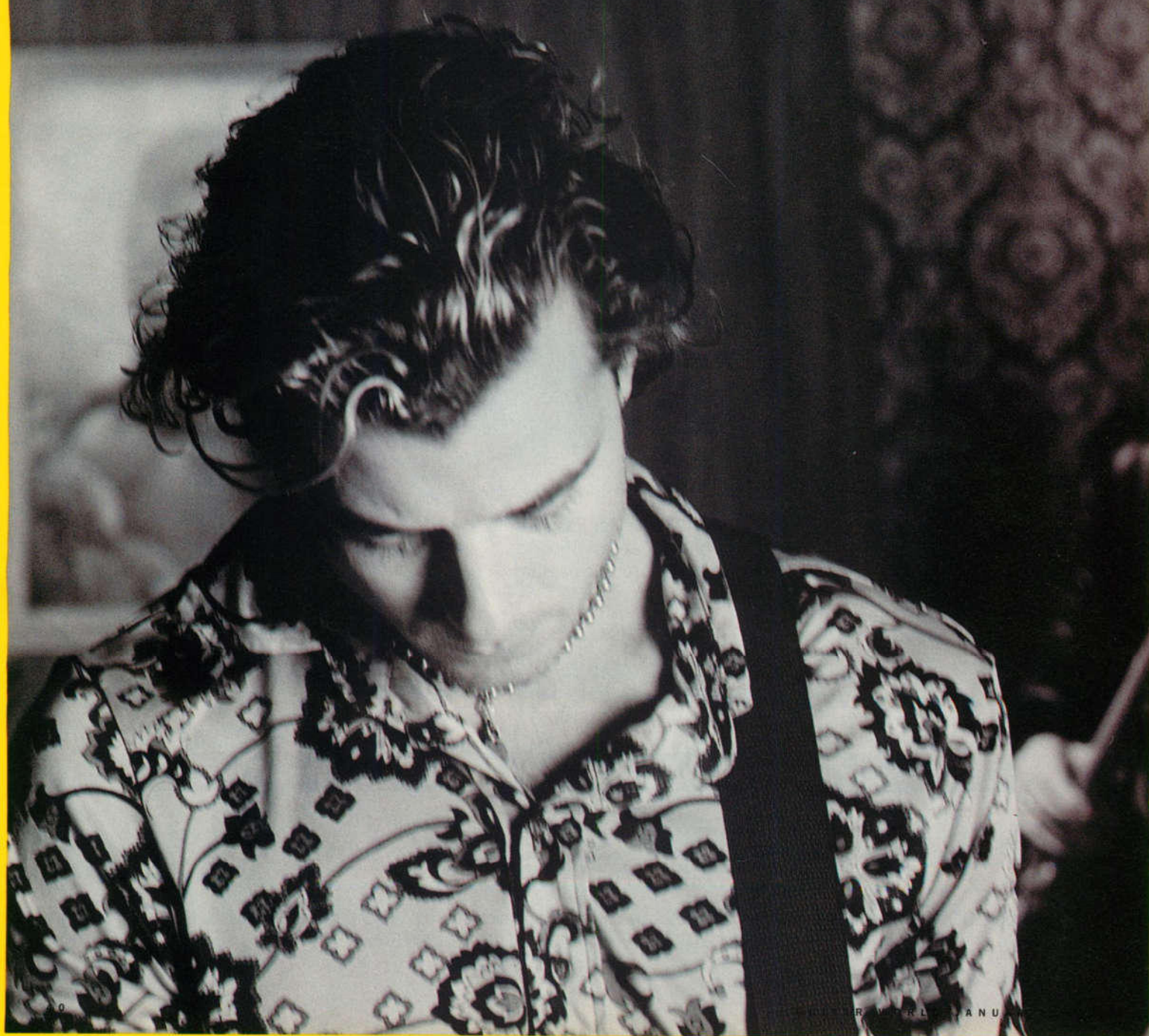
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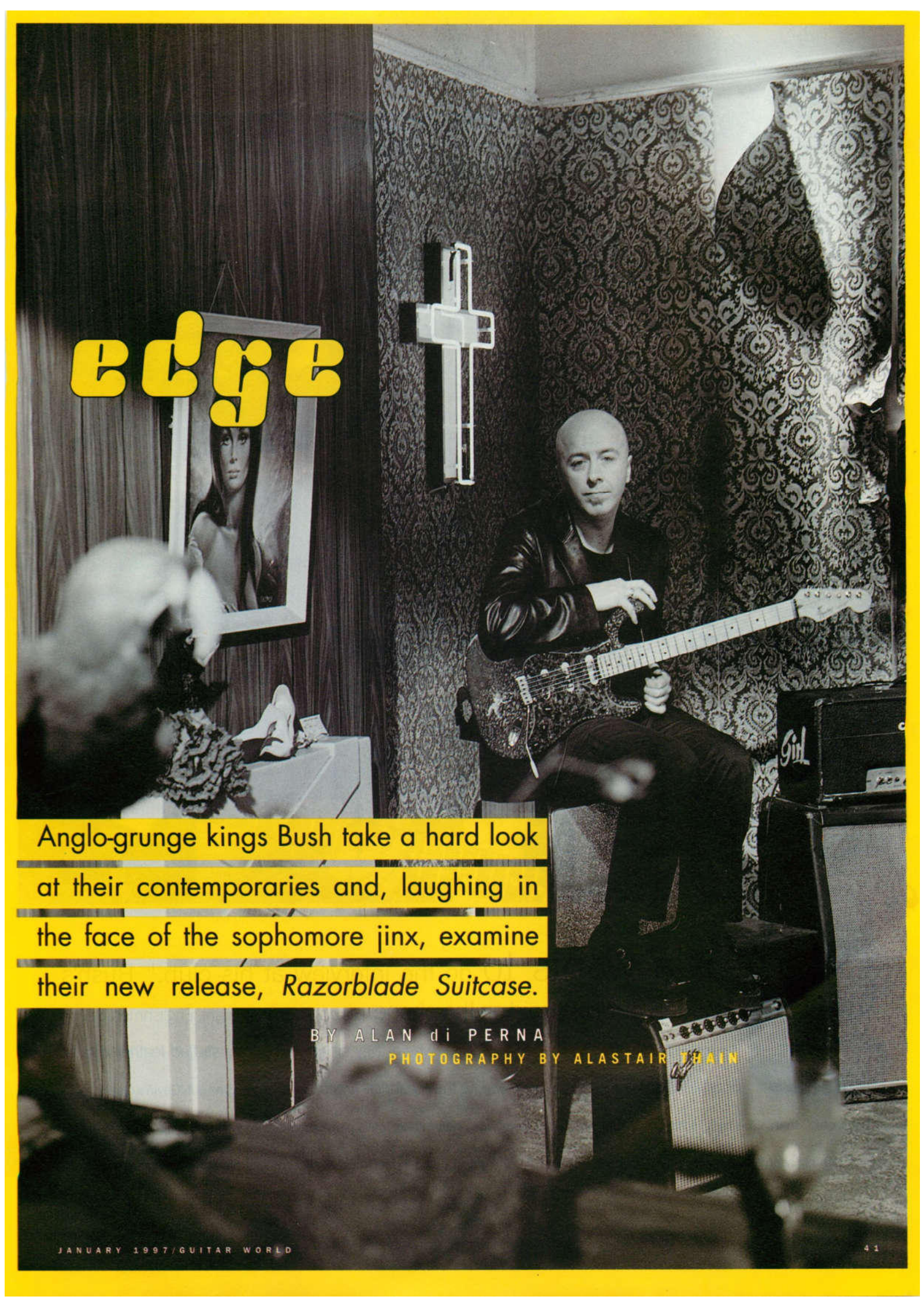
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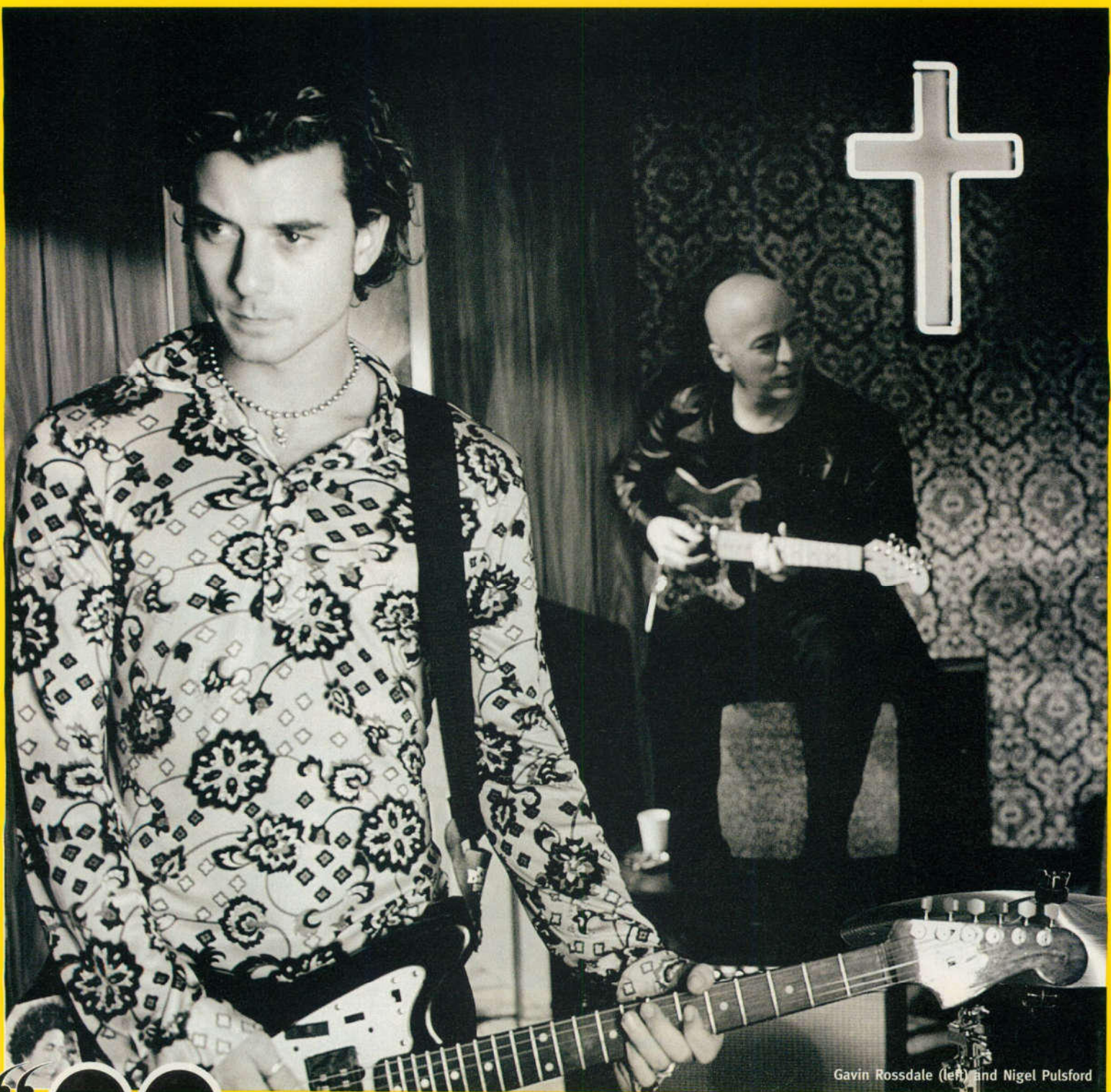


edge

Anglo-grunge kings Bush take a hard look at their contemporaries and, laughing in the face of the sophomore jinx, examine their new release, *Razorblade Suitcase*.

BY ALAN di PERNA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALASTAIR THAIN



Gavin Rossdale (left) and Nigel Pulsford

Gavin wants to do the interview at his club," Bush's London publicist said on the phone. His *club*? Oh that's right, Englishmen belong to gentleman's clubs, don't they? Places where they sit around in overstuffed leather chairs, dressed in smoking jackets and reading the *Financial Times*, right? As it turns out, Gavin's club is more

"boho chic" than "Sherlock Holmes"—a funky old Soho townhouse with interior walls painted battleship gray and plain wood furniture.

Guys with big beards and woolly pullovers chatter crisply with slim girls dressed in black. Rossdale saunters through the entrance preceded

by a well-groomed pooch on a slender leather leash.

"I wanted to meet here because they allow me to bring my dog in," he explains. Rosedale's good looks have not been exaggerated by the press. His high cheekbones and finely chiseled nose have a kind of porcelain delicacy beneath a tousle of brown hair frosted blonde at the edges. He's soft-spoken, witty, polite—charming is the word generally used to describe his particular brand of British upper-middle-class ease.

Which touches on the central paradox of Bush's career. As people, they're very English. They talk English, they act English, and their conversation is peppered with references to English bands generally unknown in the States. But as a band, they sound so American grunge. And as a consequence, they're huge in America, but relatively minor in England. Bush's debut album, *Sixteen Stone*, is seven times Platinum and still riding high, but only 50,000 copies have been purchased in England.

In America, entire arenas-full of teenage girls have been known to salivate at the sight of the comely Rosedale, while across the pond, punters are more likely to hurl an indifferent gob at Bush's image on a tube (subway) station poster.

In a way, Bush enjoy the best of both worlds. They've made big bucks in the States, but because they sell more like an indie band in England, they've conferred a kind of underground credibility on themselves, if only in their own minds. The question is, did they plan the whole thing out by carefully tailoring their sound to American tastes?

BUSH'S BRAND NEW album, *Razorblade Suitcase*, seems likely to prompt fresh speculation on this score. If the first single, "Swallowed," is any indication, Bush will continue to draw comparisons to Nirvana and other bands from the great American Northwest. Building from an ultra-Cobainesque guitar-and-vocal intro, the track settles into a grungy mid-tempo burn as Rosedale rasps out words of cryptic angst and youthful alienation. But then, the album was produced by American alt-rock knobman Steve Albini, best known for his work with

the Pixies, Breeders, Big Black and, yes, Nirvana.

"People I know say this album sounds different, but it's unmistakably us," says Rosedale. "In some ways, I think it's more 'us' than *Sixteen Stone*. As you get more control over what you're doing, you should improve. I mean, after five records you're crap. Of course I know that. But on your second record, you should be improving."

If there's something slightly defensive lurking beneath Rosedale's breezy good manners, you can't blame the guy. Repeatedly being

labeled a crass Nirvana clone over the past few years has left him a little touchy. He's also highly sensitive about being dismissed as just another pretty face, a pinup, a himbo. A recent *Rolling Stone* cover line cut to the crux of the matter by asking why nobody seems to take Rosedale or Bush seriously. So Rosedale seems especially pleased to be doing a guitar interview—raring to talk string gauges, gain stages, and other workmanlike, unglamorous stuff relevant to his increasing guitar presence in Bush.

"I've been allowed to get louder and louder," he says.

"You mean you *have* gotten louder and louder." Right on cue, Nigel Pulsford appears at Rosedale's side. A good head taller than his singer and co-guitarist, Pulsford has a few day's growth of stubble on his trademark shaved pate. Even more soft-spoken than Rosedale, he expresses himself in one of two ways: lightning-fast bursts of language or glib one-liners.

"When we first began, I was mainly superfluous on guitar," Rosedale continues, "apart from the odd chorus. Now I've got more of a guitar role. I've been allowed into the fold, so to speak. Nigel has been very kind. Most gracious."

"And patient," says Pulsford.

Gavin Rosedale and Nigel Pulsford met back in 1992. Both were music biz vets by that point. Pulsford played guitar in the Ian Lowery Group (formerly King Blank, formerly the Folk Devils) and Rosedale had put out a U.K. single with Midnight. The duo formed the nucleus of Bush, with Dave Parsons assuming bass duties and Robin Goodridge falling into place on drums. The new band was very quickly discovered by Rob Kahane, the president of the American label Trauma. Ken Weatherly, program director of the influential L.A. radio station KROQ, picked up on "Everything Zen" from *Sixteen Stone* before the track had even been officially released as a single. From there Bush have enjoyed an endless string of hit records, sold-out arena tours and training bras tossed onstage.

Inevitably, though, Bush came to face the challenge of recording a second album. They decided to charge straight into the studio and bang out a spontaneous, unlabored sophomore offering—played raw, with the same ensemble furor as the band's live set. They call the result *Razorblade Suitcase*, and only ask that you forget geography and just judge the thing on its own musical merits.

GUITAR WORLD: What is "Swallowed," your new single, really about?

GAVIN ROSSDALE: Since I write them, I always find the songs really self-explanatory. "Swallowed" is a statement about how you can be in a crowded situation and yet not necessarily feel part of it.

NIGEL PULSFORD: Like being a drummer! [laughter]

ROSSDALE: I always find it weird to explain these things because



machine heads

The gear behind *Razorblade Suitcase's* trenchant tones.

By Alan di Perna

BUSH'S GUITARISTS NIGEL Pulsford and Gavin Rossdale had more than razor blades in their suitcases when they went into the studio to record their new album, *Razorblade Suitcase*.

"I used my '89 Strat Plus Deluxe and an old Fifties Les Paul Jr.," says lead man Pulsford. "I've also got a Gibson ES-330, but I'm not sure we used it on the album, although I wanted to. I also used a Strat that Gavin's guitar tech, Cozy, made for me out of parts. It has a maple neck, so it's really bright. It's good for that real 'flying' sort of stuff. Full on. It's also got a really nice clean sound."

"For amps, I used a Mesa/Boogie Tremoverb amp, a Boogie Blue Angel, a Fender Princeton and a Fender Super Reverb. My Princeton is clean-sounding, but with a bit of an edge. I like it more for tremolo. I'm currently looking for a Matchless. They're clean and different frequencies resonate."

"Rhythm and attitude" is how Gavin Rossdale describes his guitar role in Bush. "For half of *Razorblade Suitcase*, I played with my two Fender Jazzmasters," he explains. "I've got a '61 and a '65. But every now and again, I'd slip over to Nigel's rig and nick his Strat because approximately every third time I picked one up in the studio, the Jazzmasters I was using would sound like toys. It's just the nature of the guitar, really. Although, when you hit that moment and get the right sound out of a Jazzmaster, I prefer it to a Strat. My black '61 doesn't have a really good clean sound. But

I've got the other one, the '65—this really lovely purple one—and the clean sound on that is brilliant. I used that for all the songs that have string sections, things like that. The heavier sound on that guitar is a bit middy. I seem to get chased by midrange wherever I go. That's the frequency bane of my life."

"I'd usually use the Jazzmasters through my Boogie Tremoverb amp or an old Seventies Fender Twin. I've got a Boogie Blue Angel for quiet, clean sounds. I use the Twin too, but they're never clean enough. They always start breaking up. Hiwatts have a good, clean sound. Then I've have this Expandora pedal that I use a lot. It's a really lovely, lovely pedal that this guy Bruce Barr makes. Between the clean and distorted amps and the Expandora, I could get all the sounds I needed."

BUSH

the songs are never particularly about one issue. That would be a waste, if you only had one idea for a song. There are many avenues off that main idea in "Swallowed," but I think what I said earlier would sum it up.

GW: So it's not a relationship song?

ROSSDALE: No.

PULSFORD: [moving to embrace Rossdale] It's about our undying love.

GW: People make much of Bush's sonic resemblance to Nirvana, but I hear a songwriting influence as well.

ROSSDALE: Well, it's very limited. I would say it's only on one track particularly off *Sixteen Stone*, which would be "Little Things." Because you've got one chord progression and a kind of different rhythm in the chorus, which is the same effect you get with Nirvana. But I mean, if you listen to "Smells like Teen Spirit" and then listen to [Fugazi's] "Debaser" [sings riff], it's the same thing.

PULSFORD: Everyone sounds like someone else.

ROSSDALE: PJ Harvey's "Sheela-Na-Gig" has that same thing: chord round, straight into the verse, and then she gets into that jump-skip rhythm for the theme. We should blame all of the rock genre for that thing. Obviously it's most identified with Nirvana, but for people that are in the know...

PULSFORD: Actually, we listened to Boston instead. [laughs]

GW: Yeah, that chord progression is basically the same as "More Than a Feeling."

ROSSDALE: A slight scratch below the surface and you might find something completely different in our music. I don't hear much Nirvana in many of the songs on *Sixteen Stone*: "Body," "Come Down," "Machinehead," "Everything Zen"...I've never heard a Nirvana record with slide guitar on it. But let me know if there is one. It's weird the way people worship the god

of Nirvana. With Kurt Cobain's death and all of that, Nirvana became this huge institution. People all respect that and don't want anyone to come anywhere near it or sound like that. Like, "Don't even touch that! Don't even look at that!" Nirvana were a really exciting band. And if there's an element of that excitement in our music, that's fine. They were a guitar band as well. So if you're a guitar band and you don't sing in a really high voice, it's kind of like, "Oops!"

GW: Lyrically, would you say Cobain was an influence?

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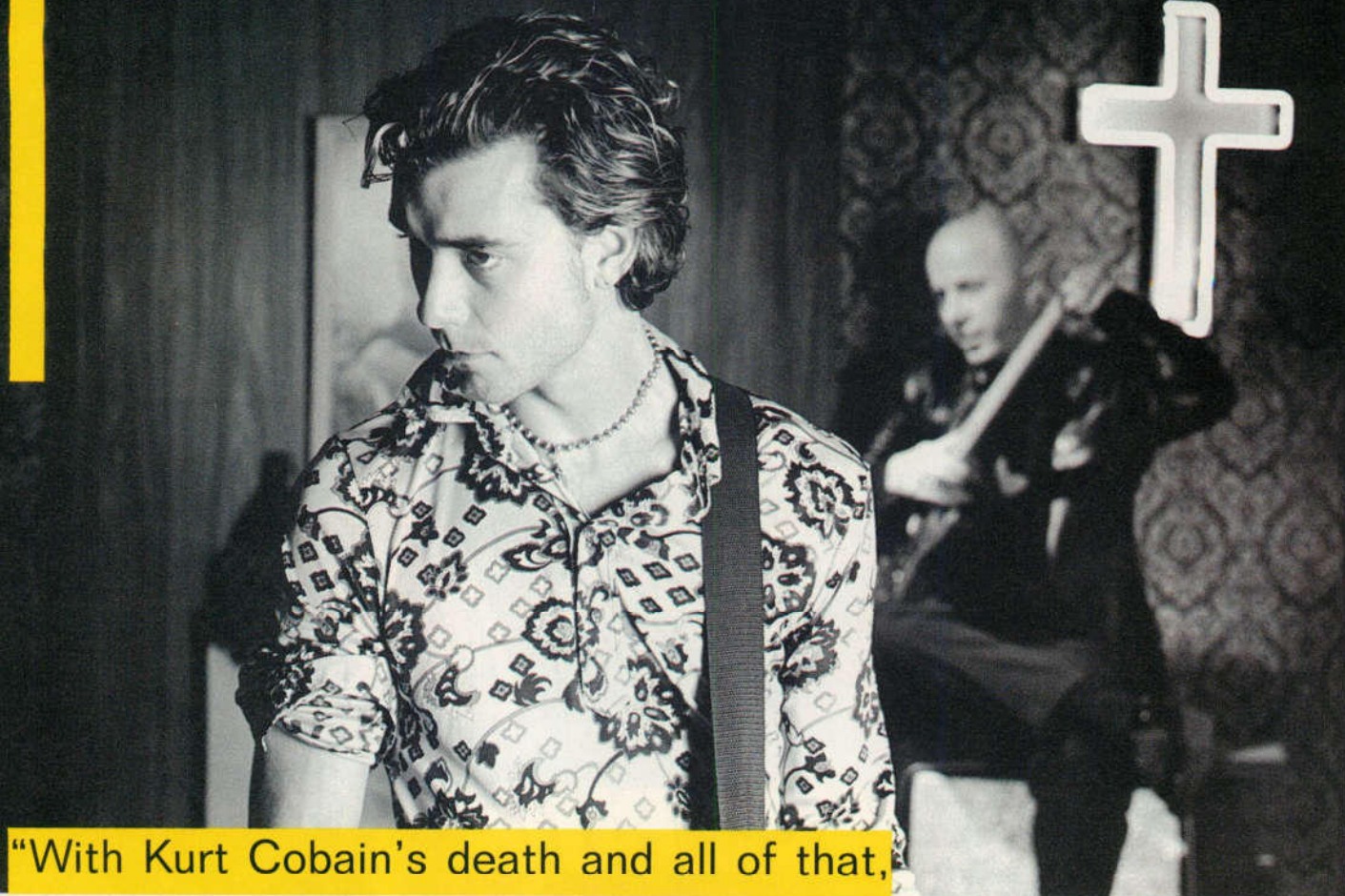
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"With Kurt Cobain's death and all of that, Nirvana became this huge institution. People all respect that and don't want anyone to come anywhere near it or sound like that."

—Gavin Rossdale

ROSSDALE: Definitely, but then the weather is the same here in London as in Aberdeen [Washington, Cobain's hometown]. There's that same desolation. It's not that dissimilar when you go to Seattle. It's the most European city in America that I know of. San Francisco is one of the best American cities, but it doesn't feel European because it's just so... well, it's *San Francisco*, isn't it? Seattle, on the other hand—they're obsessed by coffee, it rains all the time, it's pretty bleak. So there are similar ways of thinking. But I think there are others who have possibly influenced me more than Kurt Cobain. People like Patti Smith, Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs. They're people who Kurt Cobain liked, too. And he's certainly not the first songwriter to write about disaffected youth; otherwise, rock and roll wouldn't

exist. He wasn't a stunningly original lyricist. Certainly, his passion was unique.

GW: The rhythm of your lyrics—those short, cryptic phrases—is something you share with him.

ROSSDALE: Certainly. I enjoy that. But Allen Ginsberg is the king of that, isn't he? He's 100 miles an hour.

GW: There's Burroughs' "cut-up" technique.

ROSSDALE: And Jack Kerouac's *Book of Dreams*. All of them. Now, admittedly all the people I've mentioned are American. But then I think [English poet] William Blake is really brilliant in that same way. He wrote *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, a great book, a great justification for being a complete moral degenerate. Anyway, Americans stole from the French tradition of [symbolist poets] Rimbaud, Baudelaire and people

like that. So it's not unique to any one place. Same as music. It moves from one center to another and back again. The whole cut-up technique is really down to the short attention span of modern society.

The crux of this whole subject is that there are a million Nirvana sound-alike bands. I mean, if we really wanted to sound like Nirvana, we could get a lot closer. It's far easier to duplicate that than to try and do something original. The Smashing Pumpkins had this same thing. *Gish* [Caroline, 1991] came out and it sounded like Jane's Addiction. That first track, "I Am One," sounded like a cross between Guns N' Roses' "Paradise City" and Jane's Addiction. Without a doubt. Suddenly, *Siamese Dream* [Virgin, 1993] becomes this *de rigueur* record and they're launched as Smashing Pumpkins. Now there's this *Mellon Collie*, and it sounds like...

PULSFORD: Elton John.

ROSSDALE: Well, Elton John at the beginning—horrible piano. But it sounds like they want to be some sort of a hi-fi coffee-table rock band now. It's quite heavy metal, some of it? I think it's horrible.

PULSFORD: It sounds like Judas Priest.

ROSSDALE: Which you can hear on the record. I've only heard it once. I bought it and then gave it to someone. I thought it

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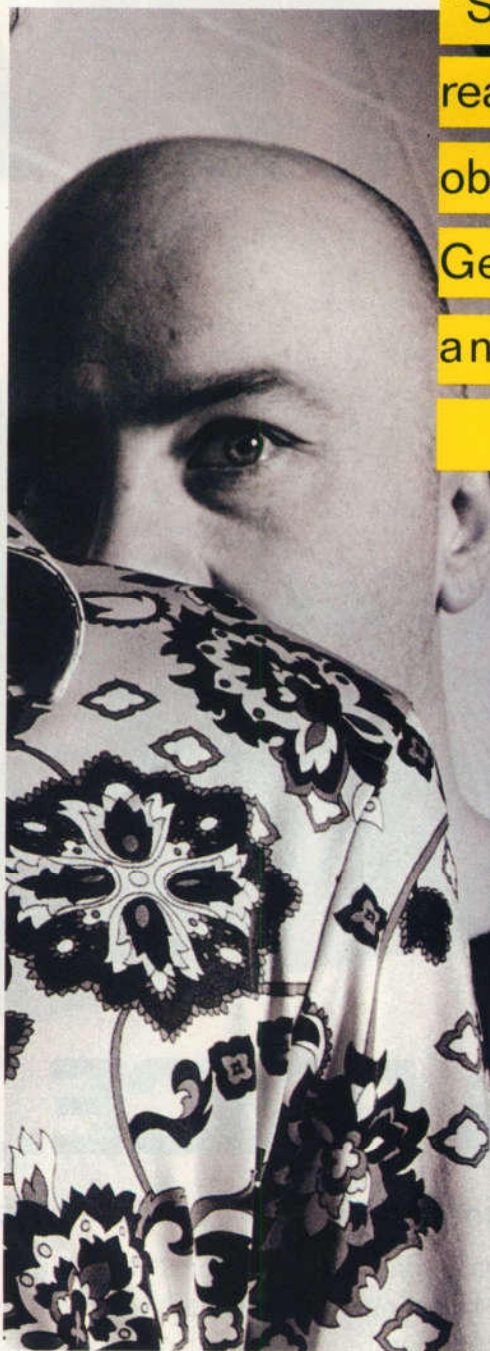
would be really good.

GW: Well, Billy Corgan makes no bones about liking all that...

PULSFORD: crap?

ROSSDALE: And he doesn't make any bones about putting it on his record, either. You can hear that he likes heavy metal. I don't even know what Black Sabbath sounds like. That was not a big scene for me. I went from punk to reggae to some hip hop and indie stuff like the Fall. They were the original alternative band, to my mind. There was

kind of a big gap for me in the Eighties. For a long time, there wasn't any band I really gave a shit about. It wasn't really making much sense to me and didn't really connect with me as a culture. I mean, I would have liked to have gone to see Big Black. But you cannot be into all of the bands all of the time. Not if you're being honest. I couldn't afford to check out every single band that I read about. But I did like Throwing Muses and the Pixies, basically stuff on 4AD.



"Steve Albini was really just into absurd, obscene guitar sounds. Get a horrible sound and he loves it."

—Nigel Pulsford

Kevin Shields [of My Bloody Valentine] is. But if you put me in front of him, I wouldn't recognize him. Even though I think he's brilliant.

GW: Why did you choose Steve Albini to produce your new record?

ROSSDALE: We've always liked his work. I mostly know him from the Pixies and Breeders, and I later got into Big Black. I really enjoyed that. His recent band, Shellac, I really liked. But it started off with the Pixies' *Surfer Rosa* [4AD, 1988].

So I just called Steve up when I was in Chicago. I went to lunch with him and his girlfriend, Heather. We had a really nice time and chatted about everything, really, for an hour. At the end, I just sort of mentioned that we were in this weird situation where we could obviously have a choice of good people to work with. And that he was our first choice. With the history he's had, he was the one we thought was best at recording bands, sonically and career-wise.

GW: How does working with him differ from working with Alan Winstanley and Clive Langer, the British team which produced *Sixteen Stone*?

ROSSDALE: Steve comes from the right part of town, and they came from a different part of town—in the sense that Steve understood what we wanted to achieve quicker. With Alan and Clive, they'd have an idea and we'd

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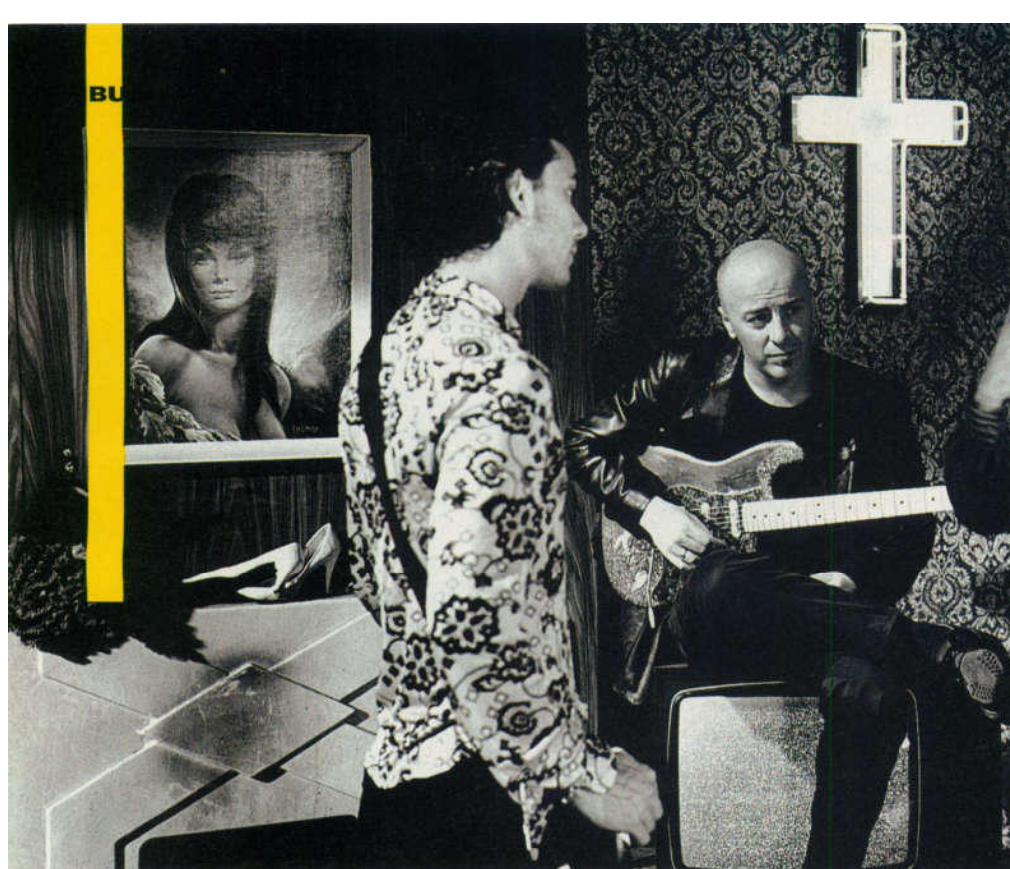
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have to coax them back in our direction. Steve will just put some microphones up and it sounds the way it sounds. It's nice because that means we can concentrate on playing and on sounds rather than having to police his production approach.

GW: Did you choose to work with him to get

that "American sound"?

ROSSDALE: [with characteristically British sarcasm] No, I think we had it already. The thing about Steve is he only records real bands. You can't fake it. You get in the studio and he records you. The reason we worked with him is we felt he was the one

who could best record rock bands—but not in that hideous kind of Mutt Lange [Def Leppard, AC/DC] way that I hate.

GW: Did the term "sophomore jinx" come up at any point?

ROSSDALE: That's why we decided to just go in the studio and do it straightaway, without thinking too much about it. Within two and a half weeks of coming off the road from touring behind *Sixteen Stone*, we were in the studio. With a second album—especially when the first one has done well—people begin to be governed by fear. So they spend a year writing the record, nine months recording it and four months mixing it. Two years later, when nobody remembers the band anymore, their record comes out. We tried to do just the opposite. We charged right into the studio without allowing ourselves to get precious about the situation. Our record company was more scared than we were.

GW: Did you write the songs on the road?

ROSSDALE: Some. Then we took a two-week period to write before we went in the studio. We recorded about 17 songs; I think 13 made the record. So we were still learning a lot of the songs in the studio, much to the chagrin of Steve Albini. [Assumes an American "no bullshit" accent] "You guys think you can hurry up?" It's hard when you've got

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BUSH

17 new songs. We'd only played four or five of them on the road, including "Distant Voices," "Bone Driven" and "Greedy Fly."

PULSFORD: The challenge is to make them all sound different when you rehearse them all together. It's very easy to lump them together in your mind.

ROSSDALE: You find yourself waiting for a bit, like a solo, that's actually in another song. You think, "Why isn't he doing that bit?" But if you're clever, you don't say anything. You wait and you go, "Shit, yeah." Also, Steve is really funny 'cause he's like [*American accent again*]: "Is this part the chorus? What is this part?" "Yes, Steve, the chorus is the part with the *hook* in it."

GW: He's sort of known for being a blunt guy.

PULSFORD: Oh, he's great.

ROSSDALE: "Straightforward," I think, is his word.

GW: What kind of sonic goals did you articulate to him?

PULSFORD: Dynamics, I think, more than anything.

ROSSDALE: I mean, Steve only reacts if the sound is completely bad or completely wrong. So his silence is a measure that everything is going according to plan. On

a couple of songs he'd come into the room while I was getting a guitar sound. Just like two or three times he'd say, "Maybe you should think about taking this frequency out," or whatever.

GW: There's a rumor that you spent \$50,000 on effects pedals to make this album.

ROSSDALE: Not true.

PULSFORD: No, I bought a lot of old vintage ones, but I suppose I spent maybe \$2,000. I just bought things like old Mu-Tron flangers.

ROSSDALE: But you can tell everybody that he had three girls stay over this week, and *that* cost him in excess of 50 grand.

PULSFORD: Fifty grand on pedals? My God, what a waste of money. But I did buy a Bradshaw switching system so I can change sounds within a song and get all the sounds I need live. Because we've been on the road so long, the idea was to capture us playing live together, rather than laying down a drum track and doing a lot of overdubs.

ROSSDALE: One thing Steve introduced me to was to take the speaker output of my Fender Princeton, with a load on it, and put it into the input of my Mesa Boogie Tremoverb. Which will then fry it, basically. It's really bad for the transformer. But that didn't happen in this case, and it sounded amazing. Because you're overloading the input in completely the wrong way. Make

Continued on page 112

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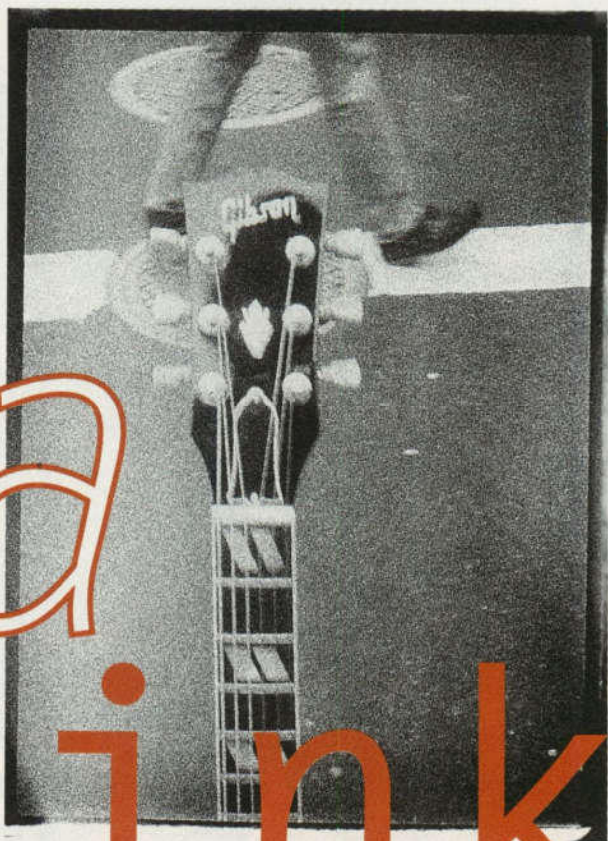
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a kink's kronikle

More than thirty years after the release of
"You Really Got Me," well-respected Ray Davies
continues to rock all day and all of the night.

By Alan di Perna

PHOTOGRAPHY: DANNY CLINCH



"I 'M NOT LIKE everybody else... " Ray Davies repeats this sentence four times in each chorus of the Kinks' 1966 teen rage anthem of the same name. As he does so, his voice modulates from a belligerent sneer to a defiant, doomed yelp. It is one of the most chilling moments in all of rock. It is also a monumental understatement. As songwriters go, Ray Davies *is* like nobody else. One of the most literate tunesmiths ever to work the genre, his peers have names like Townshend, Dylan and Lennon/McCartney. But for all his verbal wit, Davies hasn't got a pompous bone in his

body. His songs tend to be simple and direct. They cut right to the heart of their subject matter—or “To the Bone,” to quote the title of the Kinks’ brand new single.

Raymond Douglas Davies has written some of the most influential songs of the rock era: “You Really Got Me,” “All Day and All of the Night,” “A Well Respected Man,” “Sunny Afternoon,” “Lola,” “Celluloid Heroes,” “Superman,” “Come Dancing”.... Some were big hits. Some are cult classics. All are memorable. Davies’s tunes have been covered by everyone from Van Halen to Shonen Knife, from Herman’s Hermits to the Pretenders. (Lead Pretender Chrissie Hynde was Ray’s lover in the early Eighties. They had a daughter and lots of highly publicized brawls, but that’s another story.)

When the Kinks first came on the scene in 1965, they had the longest hair and the roughest sound of any rock and roll band. They were androgynous and endearingly sloppy—fop-pish and thuggish all at once. They were banned from performing in America during the late Sixties. Garage punk, heavy metal...trace any rude, anti-social style of rock music back to its shadowy source and you’ll find the Kinks lurking there.

“I’m not like everybody else...” By the end of the Sixties, Ray Davies had proven that, in his case, non-conformity wasn’t just a fashionable pose. When the whole rock world was preaching hippie revolution, the Kinks were singing nostalgically about village greens, cups of tea and Victorian decorum. They were sarcastic when rock was pie-eyed and utopian. They were sentimental when rock was jaded and cynical. Throughout their 30-year career, they’ve dabbled in “unfashionable” styles like British music hall, American Tin Pan Alley and country. Their eccentricities have endeared them to a small, but fanatical, band of misfits known as Kinks fans.

The Kinks were one of rock’s first cult bands. While mainstream success has eluded them for decades at a time, they’ve also benefited from flying low and avoiding the radar. When the punk revolution exploded in ’77, the Kinks were one of the few surviving Sixties rock acts not to be universally denounced. Instead, The Jam lovingly covered Davies’s working class football yell, “David Watts.”

“The great thing about the Kinks,” says Davies, “is that none of the new punk bands said anything about us being boring, old farts. They knew we could out-punk them. Certainly Dave could.”

Dave, of course, is David Russell Davies, Ray’s younger brother and the Kinks’ lead guitarist. The brothers’ ceaseless sibling rivalry is as legendary as the Kinks’ classic hits. They hold all known records for onstage punch-ups and music-press pissing matches. They make

Cain and Abel look like monks. Oasis’ Liam and Noel Gallagher have clearly learned many things from Ray and Dave—and not only in the “hating thy brother” department. Today Davies and the Kinks are rightly hailed as the godfathers of Britpop, the musical progenitors of Blur, Pulp, Elastica and all other modern practitioners of well-made, three-minute tunes with clever lyrics and catchy melodies.

Three decades of Kinks history are beautifully summarized on *To the Bone*, the band’s new two-disc set, which weaves together live

material and an “unplugged” session taped before a small, invited audience at the Kinks’ own Konk Studios in London. Two brand-new tracks—“Animal” and “To the Bone”—prove that Davies is still in top form as a tunesmith.

“I really like the new record,” says the Kinks’ kingpin. “I think it’s quite good, because nobody made us make it. There was no record company pressure or anything like that.”

Perhaps more than any of his British Invasion contemporaries, Ray Davies seems to have mastered the art of growing old gracefully. His recent round of one-man shows, which combine stories and song, have taken rock performance in a new kind of theatrical direction. Davies penned his own “unauthorized autobiography,” *X-Ray* (Overlook Press, 1995) to widespread



“‘You Really Got Me’ was written as a jazz song.”

critical acclaim. He has a solo album due out next year and plans to revive his old record label, Konk. He leads songwriting workshops in England and generally seems quite comfortable in the role of rock elder statesman. Has age mellowed Ray Davies? Well, he *has* begun saying nice things about Dave.

GUITAR WORLD: Is songwriting a compulsion for you? Do songs just come to you or is it more a matter of sitting down and going to work?

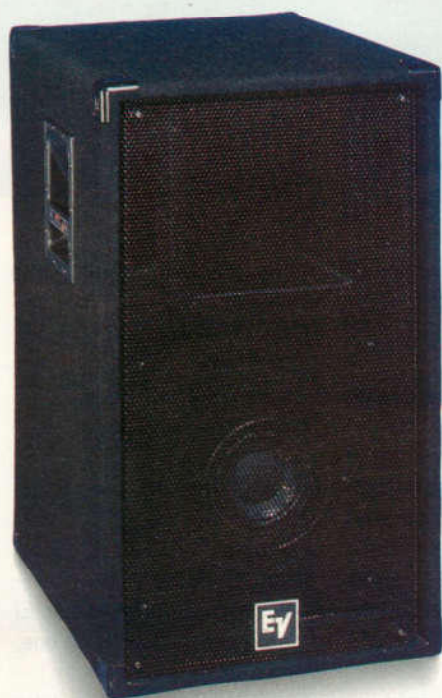
RAY DAVIES: It’s not so much a compulsion as an affliction. I’m a really annoying person to live with. That’s probably why I have continual trouble in my personal life. I guess I’m like...Who’s the guy that could not tell a lie? Abe Lincoln?

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"I love the concept of psychedelia because it makes me laugh. Although I've written some humorous lyrics, I don't think I've ever come up with music as funny as most psychedelic rock."

GW: George Washington.

DAVIES: Right. I'm like that as a songwriter. Even if I'm lying in a personal relationship—pretending I'm happy when I'm not—I'll start humming a sad tune. My emotions come out through music. I'm walking down the street and I make up my own theme tune as I'm going along, depending on the situation.

GW: Do you ever get writer's block?

DAVIES: Yeah, I get that. But you know how I cure it? I go to an art gallery. The only formal training I've had, creatively, has been as a visual artist. And when anything creative comes along that baffles me, I go to a gallery—usually of Impressionist or Expressionist paintings. Abstract stuff. And it puts tones on my tape. [laughs] I can adjust and see the world in some perspective. Or I'll read something that has good structure. I think the secret of writer's block is that it happens when you lose your feeling for structure. So if you want to cure yourself, go back and read a poem that's well-constructed, or even listen to a great record that's perfectly put together. I think writer's block has got a lot to do with loss of order. Loss of parameters. Loss of perspective.

GW: Good advice for songwriters: Go out to a gallery.

DAVIES: Or do something you know about. Because the joy of songwriting is that nobody really knows how to do it. Those who think they know how to do it work for Microsoft, and they don't know shit.

GW: Who picked up the guitar first, you or Dave?

DAVIES: I did. But the thing about Dave is, he's what I'd call a mathematical person, in that he adapts to things like automobiles. I didn't learn to drive until eight years ago. Dave had a car as soon as he was old enough. And not only that, he could take them apart and put them together again. He's a good chess player. Good in the technical sense. I picked up the guitar and went off into dreamworld with it. I imagined more than I actually played. Dave actually got up and

played it. That's the way we are with women, as well, I think. I'm a romantic. He gets straight to it and hits the chords.

GW: Great manual dexterity.

DAVIES: Absolutely.

GW: So many guitar aces are really into cars. Like Jeff Beck.

DAVIES: Strange, isn't it? I don't know what that says about me. I rode a bicycle most of my adult life.

GW: Tell me about the legendary "green amp" that was used to get that raucous guitar sound on "You Really Got Me."

DAVIES: Dave informs me that the green amp was called an "El Pico."

GW: In books, I've seen it referred to as an "El Pico."

DAVIES: I'm pretty sure he said it was an El Pico. But if it was an El Pico, hey, what's a "d" or a "c"? If I could get my hands on one, I'd love to have it again.

GW: In your book, you said it was a five-watt. But in John



'Tis The Season.



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Ask Dr. Epiphone

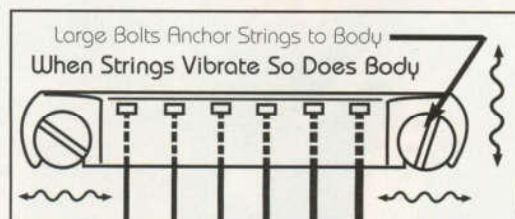
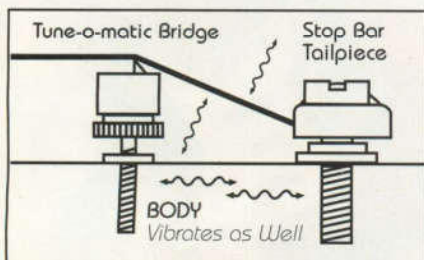
Q: I've heard a lot of professional musicians talk about guitars they love that have great "sustain". What exactly does that mean and what makes a guitar sustain?

A: When guitarists talk about sustain, they are primarily talking about an instrument's ability to prolong the sound of a note or notes. From the time you pluck the string to the time that the sound disappears defines sustain. In general, a guitar will have long or "great" sustain if there is a good transfer of string vibration to the body, neck and nut/headstock of the instrument. Only then, will the WHOLE guitar vibrate giving it great sustain and improved tone. In order to effectively transfer that vibration from the string to the body, an electric guitar MUST have:



1: Good Transfer of String Vibration at the Tailpiece

In general, there are two basic types of tailpieces - the floating (or tremelo) style and the fixed (or Stop Bar) style. Of these two, the Stop Bar (which was invented by Gibson Guitar in 1952) is clearly better at transferring string vibration to the body of the instrument. Because a tremelo "floats" it actually acts like a "shock (or vibration) absorber" and therefore transfers little or no string vibration to the body and wood of the instrument. On the other hand, a Stop Bar tailpiece has large 1.25" bolts which anchor the strings into the wood of the body and effectively transfer vibration to the body.



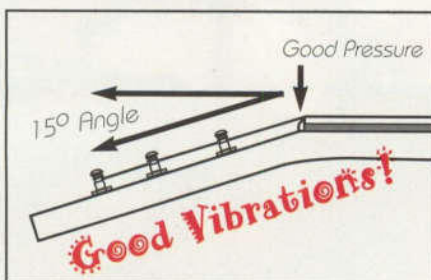
2: Good Transfer of String Vibration at the Bridge

Again, there are two basic types of bridges - ones which anchor directly into or on top of the body of the guitar (like the Tune-o-matic Bridge invented by Gibson in 1952) and bridges which are integrated into a tremelo unit. For the same reasons listed above, the "floating" bridge/tailpiece tremelo unit transfers little or no string vibration to the guitar body. Conversely, a Tune-o-matic Bridge is bolted directly into the body and sends the vibrations of each string into the guitar for increased sustain and excellent tone.

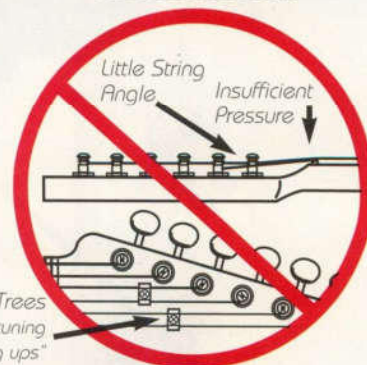
3: Good Transfer of String Vibration at the Nut/Headstock

It is important for the strings to pass over the nut at an angle significant enough to create good downward pressure in order to transfer vibration. Therefore, a headstock *must* be "angled" at least 15 degrees in order to achieve good string pressure. An angled headstock is more difficult to make and is typically more expensive because it requires the use of more wood and/or another gluing operation. Inexpensive guitars avoid this added cost by combining a "flat headstock" with gadgets called "string trees" to artificially create downward pressure. Unfortunately, string trees are inherently bad because they dissipate the transfer of string vibration and energy. Additionally, string trees create an unnecessary angle and surface for the string to pass over. Often this causes tuning problems because the string gets "hung-up" or caught on the tree. Although it may cost a little more, the "angled headstock" will give you better tone, less tuning problems, and great sustain.

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RAY DAVIES

Mendelssohn's Kinks book [The Kinks Kronikles, *Quill*, 1984], Dave said it was an eight-watt.

DAVIES: Well, who would argue with John Mendelssohn? It may have been a five, but the way Dave played it, it sounded like eight!

GW: Did Dave *really* poke knitting needles into the speaker cone to get that sound? Or is that one of rock's great myths?

DAVIES: No, it's true.

GW: And Dave would use the green amp as a preamp to a Vox AC-30?

DAVIES: Yeah. Because we didn't have fuzz boxes or any of those boxes back

then. We had a Vox AC-30 and we'd use the green amp as a preamp. So we'd plug into that first, then send that signal into the AC-30 to get more power. That's how we got that sound on "You Really Got Me" and "All Day and All of the Night."

GW: Was Dave playing a Harmony Meteor guitar at the time?

DAVIES: Yeah, a Harmony guitar. He had a Epiphone for a while as well. I played a Maton. It was a fake Australian Gretsch.

GW: But eventually you switched to a Telecaster.

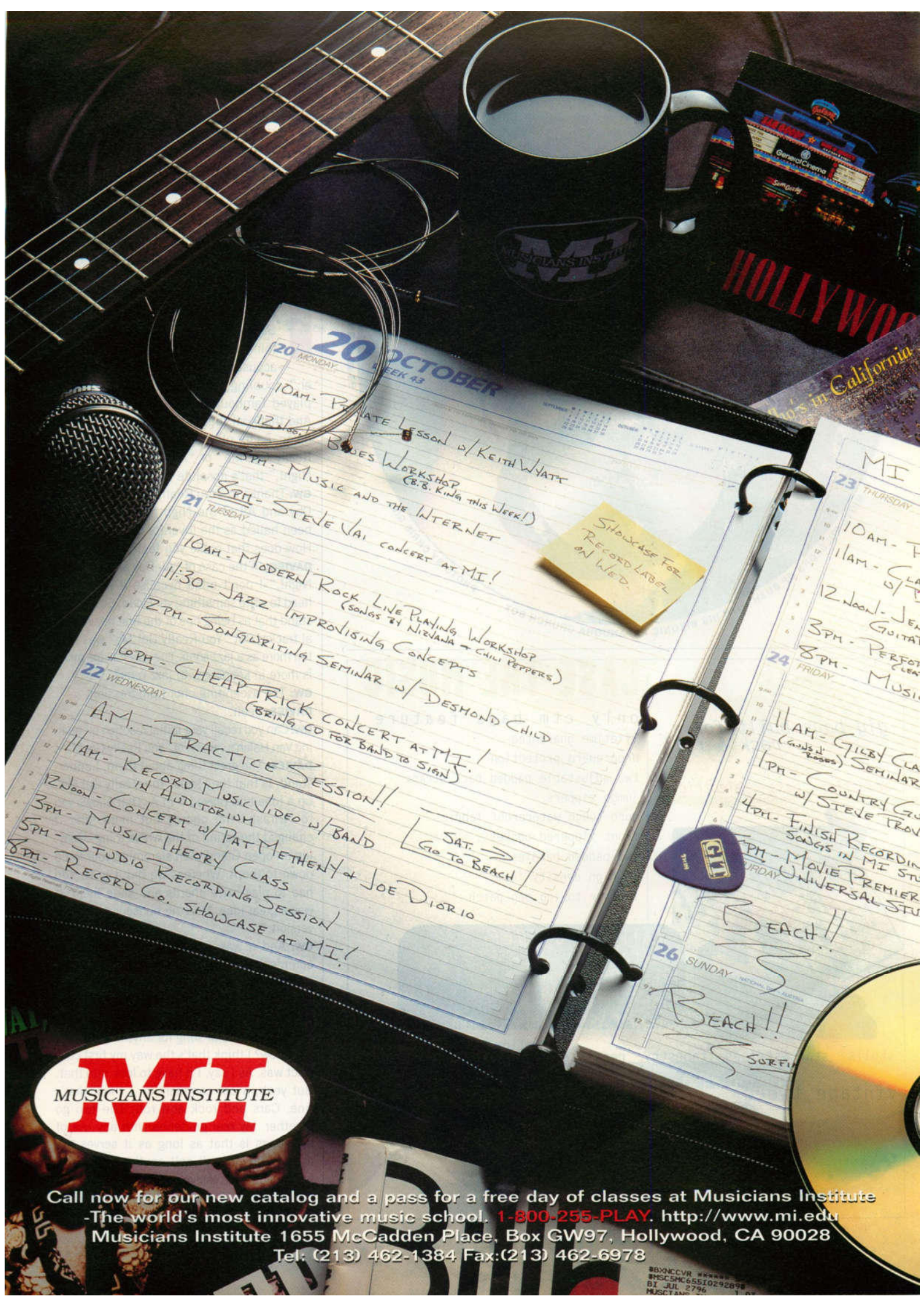
DAVIES: Yeah, Eric Haydock, the bass player for the Hollies, told me I should get one. So when "You Really Got Me" hit the charts, I sold the Maton, went to Selmer's music store and got a Tele, which I had until it was stolen about three or four years ago.

But for the recording of "You Really Got Me," I still had the Maton. I played the rhythm part on it through a Wallace amplifier. A Wallace was a custom-built amp—by a man called Wallace, obviously. He made amps for jazz people. And the person who had the amp before me was a vibes player. So it's not really a guitar amp. And we had Arthur Greenslade playing piano on "You Really Got Me"—to double up the bass chords. Pete [Quaife, the Kinks' original bassist] played bass, Dave played lead. And a guitarist who worked for our publishing company, who I believe was named Al, came in just to play the double of my part, to make that big wall of sound. We couldn't do overdubs. We had to put it all down on one track.

GW: We should deal with the persistent rumor that Jimmy Page played lead guitar on "You Really Got Me" and/or "All Day and All of the Night."

DAVIES: Yeah. I don't like going to court, but if I'd been Dave I would have sued somebody about this. I'm particularly incensed with Jimmy for actually perpetrating this untruth. Dave played "You Really Got Me" and "All Day and All of the Night."

GW: Of course. But Page did play some



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RAY DAVIES

rhythm guitar on the first Kinks album [You Really Got Me, Reprise, 1965], right? [The album was recorded some months after the single—GW Ed.]

DAVIES: Well, see, when the Kinks started, you know, it was the hottest new band. Everybody wanted to be in on the sessions, to see how we got the sound with the green amp into the Vox. Jimmy was doing a session in the studio next door. He came in and played acoustic guitar, I think, on that Bald Mountain track ["I've Been Driving on Bald Mountain"]. The following day, I think, he came in and played 12-string acoustic on "I'm a Lover Not a Fighter," doubling Dave's electric part; and he played tambourine on "Long Tall Shorty." And that's all that I seem to remember him doing. As for playing the lead guitar on "You Really Got Me" or "All Day and All of the Night," that's absolute nonsense.

GW: Thanks to "You Really Got Me" and "All Day and All of the Night," you have often been hailed as the inventor of heavy metal. How does that make you feel?

DAVIES: In the case of "All Day and All of the Night," I don't mind because it was in my head to write something very loud. So I understand that as being one of the first heavy metal tracks. But "You Really Got Me" was written more as a jazz song. The way it skips along is more in keeping with jazz music.

GW: The ascending chord progression.

DAVIES: Yeah.

GW: Can you recall your initial reaction on hearing Van Halen's version of "You Really Got Me"?

DAVIES: The great thing about them, I understand, is that they took "You Really Got Me" up a tone and played it in A. That allows you to thrash the chords out more, and it changed the sound of the whole thing—playing an open G and then slamming your hand down to the A. Whereas we did it in G, and had to play barre chords and slide them. It was a great idea. More no-nonsense than our version.

GW: And it was recently licensed for a car commercial?

DAVIES: We're still looking into the legal implications of that. [laughs] Look, I've never had anybody really ask me permission to use that particular song for anything. So why start now? I think that's the way my first contract was. As I say, I'll have to look into that. But yeah, a car commercial, I think that's fine. Cars and rock and roll. The two go together. My real guideline with any use of my songs is that as long as it serves the music and doesn't sell anything that will harm people excessively—obviously cars can harm people—then I don't mind too much.

Continued on page 116

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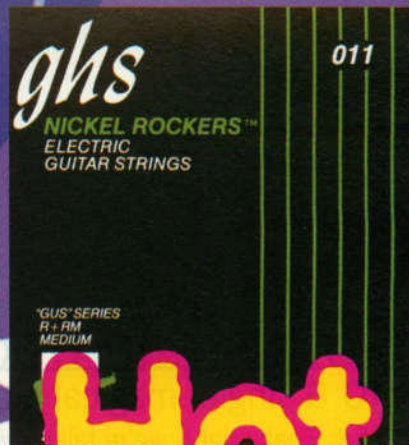
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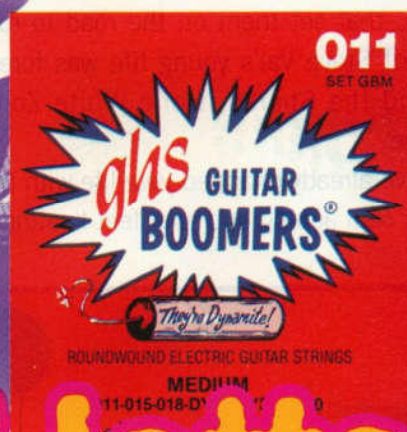


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Most of us can trace our obsession with music and guitars to a single, magical album—an album so all-powerful that our eyeballs bulged and ears bled at the sound of it. That's right, we're talking *instant karma*, rock and roll epiphany, the great full-body tingling that comes with the intermingling of music, adrenaline and testosterone. The albums that pushed our innermost buttons as children or adolescents forever remain with us in our hearts and musical minds. *Guitar World* has assembled a select cast of some of rock's guitar greats and other luminaries to share their feelings about the records that changed *their* lives—the music that set them on the road to rock-and-roll abandon, stardom and perdition. And what diverse responses we received! Steve Vai's young life was forever altered by Leonard Bernstein's grand treatment of the war between the Jets and the Sharks, while White Zombie's J. had his molecules rearranged by Public Enemy's militant rap message.

Some of our stars have already changed *your* life with their work, just as some of the albums they cite are destined to get your heart racing, your soul aching and your feet beating a frenzied path to the nearest record store for sonic salvation.

Metallica

JAMES HETFIELD

Stryper
To Hell with the Devil
(Hollywood, 1986)

"It made me feel pure, unadulterated hate. It absolutely inspired me to be a musician."

KIRK HAMMETT

Jimi Hendrix
"The Star-Spangled Banner"
(from *Woodstock*, Cotillion, 1970)

"It made me realize the range of emotions possible on the electric guitar, from the theme to the dive bombs to the human cries and screams. I fucking can't listen to it any more, though, because I've just played it so much."

JASON NEWSTED

Kiss
Alive!
(Casablanca, 1975)

"I first heard this in 1976 from a drummer in junior high marching band who was hip to lots of cool rock. Within a week, I borrowed *Alive!* and stole the three preceding Kiss albums. I felt I had discovered something that was meant just for me. It made me want to be a musician, and I still love it."



Kirk Hammett (left)
and James Hetfield

"THE ALBUM THAT Changed my life"

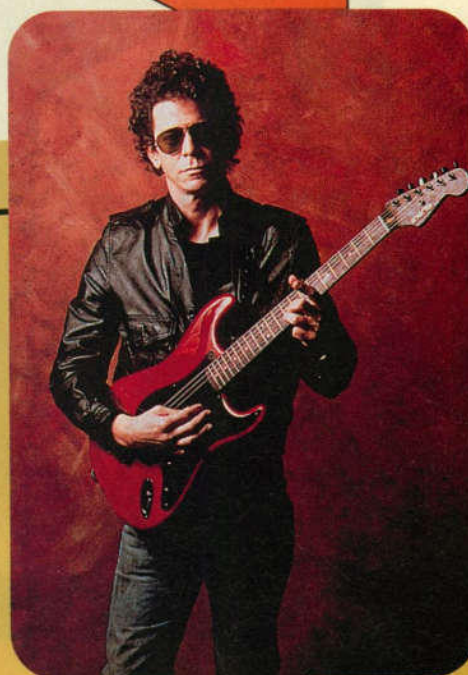
COMPILED BY ALAN PAUL



J. Yuenger
(White Zombie)

Public Enemy
It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back
(Def Jam, 1989)

"I'd never heard music with that many different facets before—angry, socially aware, funky, funny and noisy—all at the same time! It was the first time I realized that heavy music could be made with something other than a guitar—and that you could take a guitar and combine it with other sounds and come up with something totally fresh. It was also the first time I realized that rap or anything coming from a dance direction could be more than just cheesy fun."



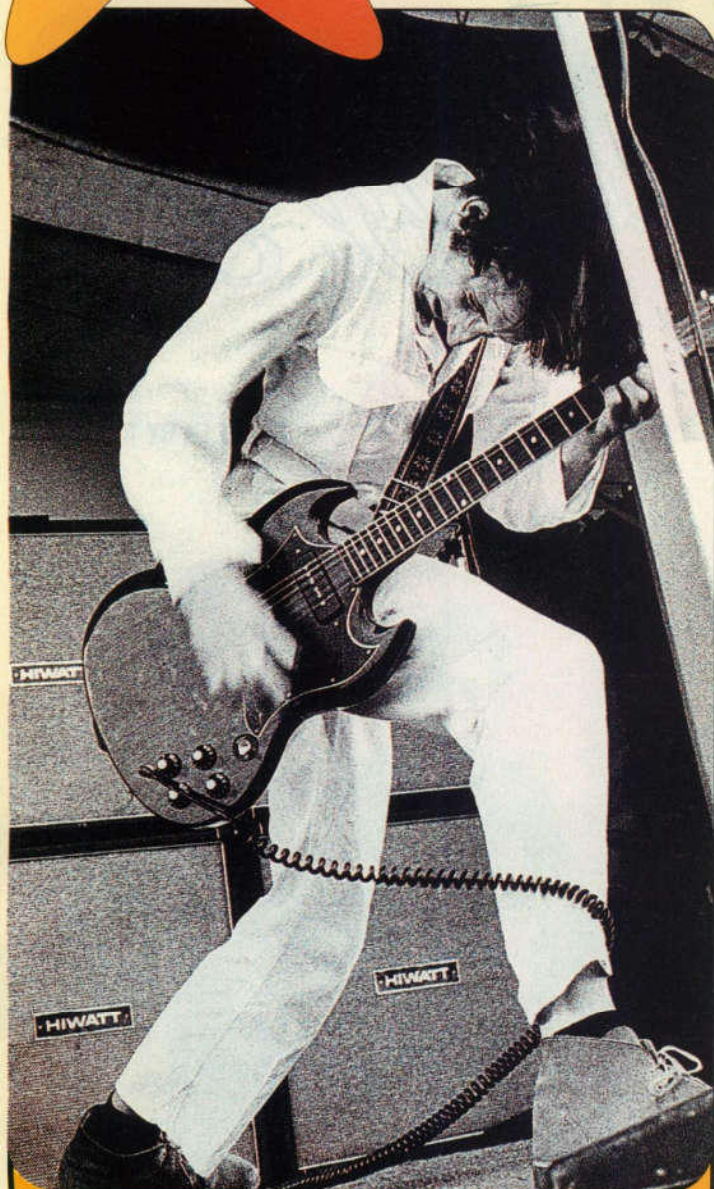
Lou Reed

Ornette Coleman
Change of the Century
(Atlantic, 1959)

"To this very day, my favorite song would have to be 'Lonely Woman,' along with an absolutely incredible track called 'Ramblin'.' I've never, since the day I heard it, had that album out of my mind; it has a permanent residence in my head. Hearing that free jazz improvisation really changed my way of thinking about music."



"THE ALBUM THAT Changed my life"



Pete Townshend

Bob Dylan
The Times They Are a-Changin'
 (Columbia, 1964)

"Nobody that I knew wrote songs with their brain in gear prior to 1963. I loved *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* [Columbia, 1962], but I thought it was a bit fluffy. To me, Dylan is the fulcrum of modern music."

Peter Buck

(REM)



Patti Smith
Horses
 (Arista, 1975)

"Growing up in the South, I was indoctrinated with the Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd, both of which I loved. But, at the time *Horses* came out, it was a whole new way of looking at pop music. It redefined the way you could approach being in a rock band."

Dimebag Darrell

(Pantera)

Kiss
Alive!
 (Casablanca, 1975)
Van Halen
Van Halen
 (Warner Bros., 1978)
Ozzy Osbourne
Blizzard of Oz
 (Jet/Epic, 1981)



"This is gonna have to be three-way split, man. First, of course, there's *Kiss Alive!*, 'cause that's what turned me on to hard rock. That album influenced me to go out and buy other heavy records by bands like Black Sabbath and Judas Priest. It led me down the right path, brother. The next one I would have to say would be *Van Halen*. Eddie [Van Halen] is the breakthrough guitarist of the last 20 years, and his innovative style and fire let me know that what you could do with the guitar was unlimited. The third would have to be Ozzy's *Blizzard of Oz*, for the riffage. Randy [Rhoads] was a killer lead player and his riffs were unbelievable. Every song was full of 'em, man. I mean, the first time I heard the intro to 'Crazy Train,' I was like, 'Goddamn, I gotta learn this!'"

Kiss



From left:
Gene Simmons,
Paul Stanley,
Ace Frehley
and Peter Criss

Gene Simmons

The Beatles Meet the Beatles (Capitol, 1964)

"But it wasn't really the album; it was seeing them on TV, on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. It was like a combination of religion and music and I don't know what else. The clock stopped for me; everything stopped. It was like in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*, when the apes went up to the monolith and touched it: a quantum leap forward. All of a sudden I understood what my fate was, what I had to do."



Paul Stanley

Led Zeppelin Led Zeppelin (Atlantic, 1969)

"The first time I heard 'Good Times, Bad Times,' I thought someone had unleashed an animal in the speaker. Something was going on there that hit everything primal, sonic, intellectual, visceral."



Steve Vai

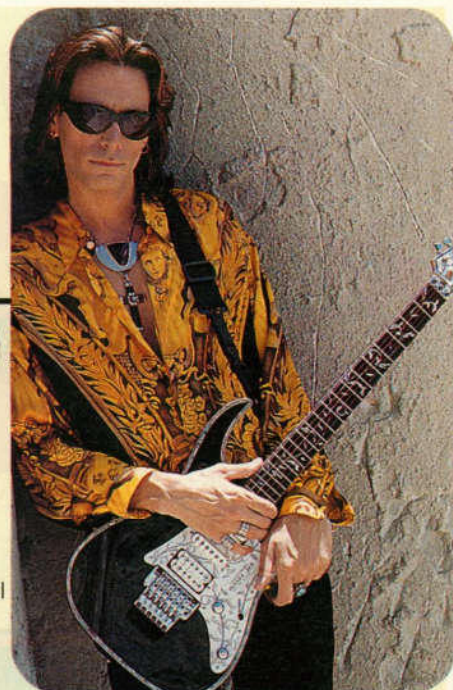
West Side Story original cast recording Led Zeppelin Led Zeppelin II (Atlantic, 1969)

"My parents had a record collection with all these old polka things that didn't do anything for me. Then, one day when I was six or seven, they played this album, and I was just stunned. *West Side Story* was an adventure from beginning to end. It had aggression, attitude, virtuoso cadenzas and absolutely historic melody."

"In terms of guitar playing—and singing—the record that changed my life was *Led Zeppelin II*. I was into the Partridge Family—mainly because I thought it was really cool that kids my age could actually be in a band—but my sister was into stuff



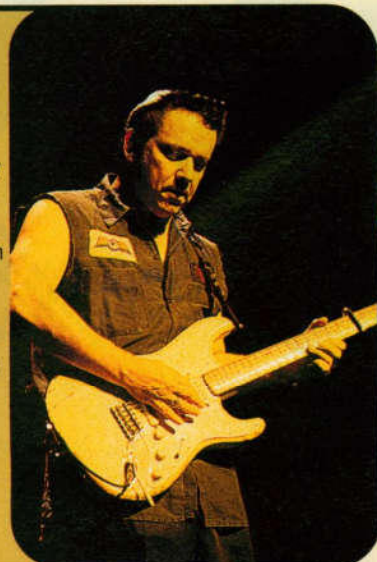
like Led Zeppelin and Alice Cooper. I used to stand outside her door and listen, and one day, standing there, I heard the song 'Heartbreaker.' I thought it was the coolest thing I had heard in my life. I started listening to any and all Led Zeppelin I could get my hands on. That led me into my sister's room so I could actually play her eight-track machine myself. She had a copy of *Woodstock*, which has Jimi Hendrix's 'Star-Spangled Banner' on it. I've never been the same since."



Freddie King Sings (1961, Modern Blues, 1989) B.B. King, *Greatest Hits* (Modern, out of print)

"I first got into blues by hearing it on radio stations KNOK and WRRR. Then I went out and bought *Freddie King Sings* and B.B. King's *Greatest Hits*, which was a studio recording of all his singles, with a live audience overdubbed. Both of them were wonderful albums and they led to me becoming obsessed with this music. I was 15 or so, and I started consuming this stuff as much as I could, getting a series of albums which set me on the path I've never left: Albert Collins, *Don't Lose Your Cool*; *Folk Festival of the Blues*, which had Sonny Boy Williamson, Willie Dixon, Howlin' Wolf and Muddy Waters, with a house band that included Buddy Guy and Otis Spann; Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, *It's My Life, Baby*; Booker T. and the MG's, 'Green Onions'—the sound of that lead was absolutely shattering—and Albert King, *Traveling to California*. Those records got me obsessed with mastering the music, but I still had doubts if it was possible to do so as a young white guy. Then I heard John Mayall's *Bluesbreakers*, and here was this young English guy named Eric Clapton who had just absolutely nailed it. I thought, 'It is okay for me to play this—and I can be good at it.' Then there was Jimi Hendrix's *Are You Experienced?* When I first heard the single 'Purple Haze' it sounded to me like Muddy Waters's grandkid, but wilder. I thought, 'How can anyone be wilder than Muddy Waters?' It was a scary thought. All this stuff, taken together, completely changed the course of my life."

Jimmie Vaughan

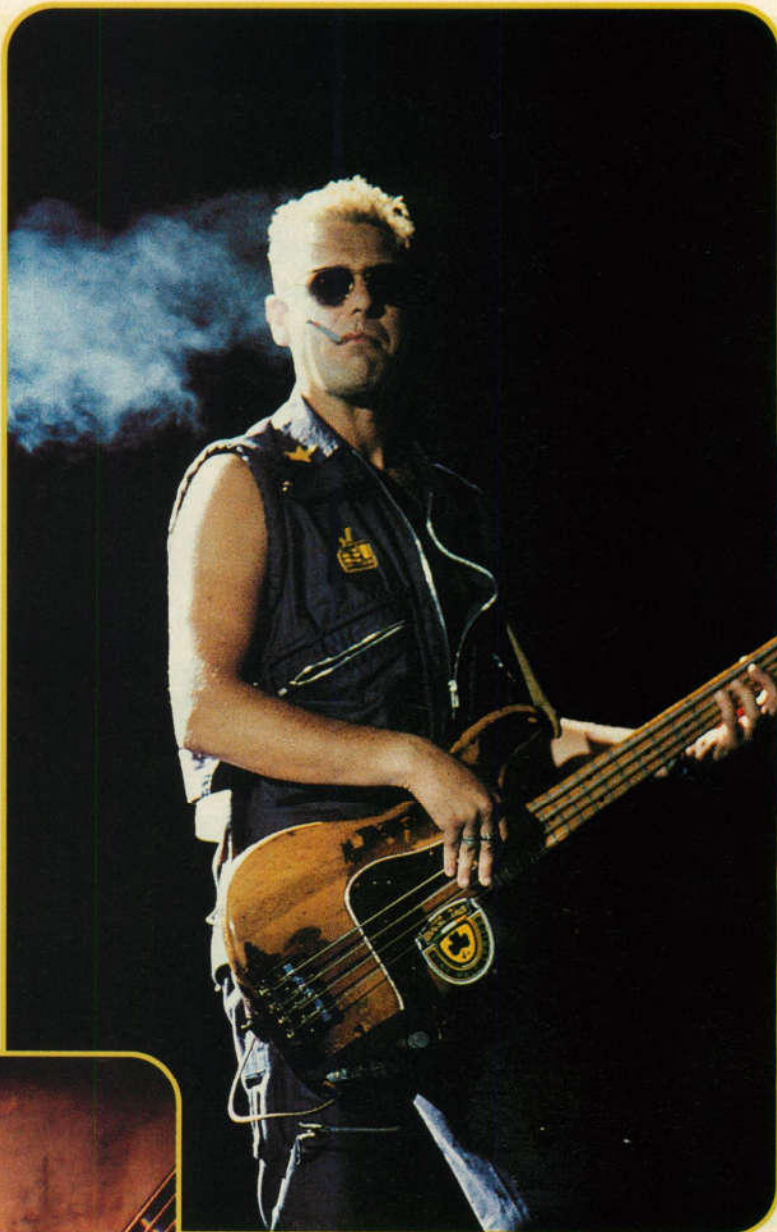


"THE ALBUM THAT Changed my life"

Adam Clayton
(U2)

Leftfield
Leftism
(Columbia, 1995)

"I thought you could only listen to a lot of that techno music in a club, but that record seems to sustain for 35 minutes of running time, and it gets better every time I hear it."



Dave Matthews

Tom Waits
Blue Valentine
(Elektra, 1978)

"I was young, maybe 12, and I'd never heard music like that—the poetry, the lyrics and everything about it. It's a whole package, one whole thing. That's what amazed me about it."



**Aerosmith
Rocks**
(Columbia, 1976)

Slash

"That was the transitional record for me, the one that turned me into a musician. I was infatuated with this older girl when I was in junior high school. She was impossible to catch and had another boyfriend and so on and so forth. I finally managed to get over to her place, and that's the record she played. After I worked so hard to fucking procure this woman, she puts on this record and it was all I could think about!"

Bonnie Raitt

Bob Dylan, *The Times They Are a-Changin'*
(Columbia, 1964)

"It was the first time I had ever heard folk music from a modern perspective, talking about issues of today. I decided not to get the new Beatles record immediately but to get the new Bob Dylan record instead."



Ted Nugent



**Rolling Stones
England's Newest Hitmakers**
(London, 1964)

"These white boys were showing a great reverence for the original rhythm and blues and blues artists and putting a little more uppity, spirited, electronic projectile involvement into their interpretation. That album had a lot of impact and influence on my musical direction."

Daniel Johns
(Silverchair)

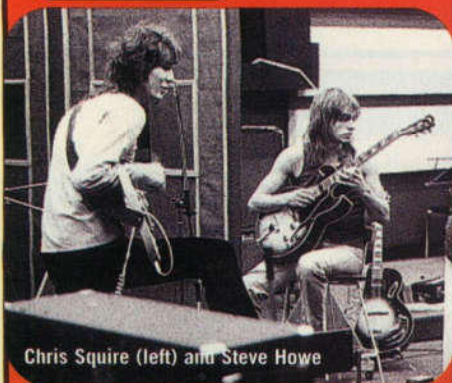


**Deep Purple
In Rock**
(Warner Bros., 1970)

"I was 12 when I discovered it, and I just couldn't believe how hellish Ritchie Blackmore's guitar playing was. Here was this stuff that was done ages ago but still sounded really heavy and weird. He played lots of solos and stuff, but they weren't *normal* solos, if you know what I mean. His playing never did what you'd expect it to do and was always *so heavy*."

THE ALBUM THAT Changed my life™

Yes



Chris Squire (left) and Steve Howe

STEVE HOWE

The Beach Boys
Pet Sounds
(Capitol, 1966)

"Though it's hard to ignore the first album I owned, Elvis Presley's *Rock & Roll*, or something by Django Reinhardt, or Les Paul or Chet Atkins, my top choice has to be *Pet Sounds* by the Beach Boys. Why? Because it resounded of freedom, emotion and adventure in recording—'Leslie' guitars and other original guitar sounds, massive harmonies, dynamic production—and great hooks. Despite a somewhat silly cover, the album opened up my mind, and from there anything was possible."

CHRIS SQUIRE

The Beatles
Please Please Me
(Capitol, 1963)

"I was 15 at the time the Beatles released their first album in Britain, *Please Please Me*. Not only did this record change my life while sparking my interest in rock music, it probably also changed the world."

Nick Hexum
(311)



The Clash
The Clash
(CBS, 1977)

"I was 13 when I got this, which was years after it had come out, and I quickly became a fanatic. My friends and I would put it on, crank it up really loud and go nuts in a good, clean, teenage way, just having fun and feeling the power of music. I fell in love with the Clash and got everything they put out, including imports and 7-inch singles, and I wore nothing but a Clash T-shirt every day for a year."

"The first two songs I ever played live were the Clash's 'Police and Thieves' and 'Protek Blue.' It was at a junior high talent show, and our band, which we formed just for the show, was called A Tribute to the Clash. I had just started playing and, of course, I sucked. Shortly after that, I had my first band which we actually named. We called it Procaine Guns, after a line from the album *Sandinista*."

"I loved all their records, but *The Clash* was always the one. It was so raw, with such great, simple melodies, and it was just packed with emotions. Also, I realize now, the thing that sets the Clash apart from their peers is they had the reggae thing down. The other thing the Clash had going for them in my book is they were the first band that I liked but my parents didn't. That's what made it punk."



Lenny Kravitz

Stevie Wonder
Innervisions
(Tamla, 1973)

"I was eight when it came out. It was so amazingly musical, just perfection. And so beautiful. It's a very spiritual record."

Sting



Miles Davis
Bitches Brew
(Columbia, 1970)

"That was, I suppose, the beginning of rock and roll and jazz mixed up, which thrilled me. It still does, actually."

Lars Frederiksen
(Rancid)



Social Distortion
Mommy's Little Monster
(Triple X, 1983)

"Asking what album changed my life is like asking where and with whom I lost my virginity. The one record, though, that comes closest to hitting the mark is Social Distortion's *Mommy's Little Monster*—it was loud and punk. It was louder than any record I had ever heard; it was so loud it almost scared me. I was about 11 years old and I was already listening to Oi! Music, Black Flag and D.O.A., but nothing had that power plus harmony which just hit me in the face. It was like seeing God. I didn't have to have sex after that because I already knew what it felt like after sitting in my room and listening to that record for the first time."

"Later, when I started playing guitar, Mike Ness became one of my biggest influences because of his storyline solos, which are a song within a song. He doesn't do twiddly Eddie Van Halen bits—I never got into that shit, I always thought that was for dorks. I don't understand that shit and it has nothing to do with punk rock anyway."

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Johnny Rzeznik (Goo Goo Dolls)

Kiss
Alive!
 (Casablanca, 1975)
The Replacements
Let It Be
 (Twin/Tone, 1984)

"Alive! is the first rock record that I ever listened to as a kid; Let It Be was easy to relate to."

Robby Takac (Goo Goo Dolls)

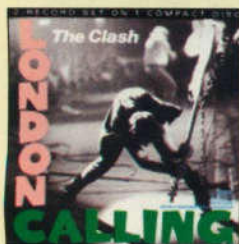
Hüsker Dü
New Day Rising
 (SST, 1984)
Cheap Trick
At Budokan
 (Epic, 1979)

"New Day Rising was completely different from any other music I had ever heard. At Budokan is pretty much self-explanatory: it may be the best rock record ever made."

Kenny Wayne Shepherd

Muddy Waters
Hard Again
 (Blue Sky, 1977)

"It's one of the most incredible blues albums I ever heard—maybe one of the best of all time. It's absolutely killer. Not too many people talk about it, and I don't know why. They did it all live in the studio, with James Cotton on harmonica, Pine Top Perkins on piano and Johnny Winter playing guitar. It was an incredible band and they kicked ass."



Jakob Dylan (the Wallflowers)

The Clash
London Calling
 (Epic, 1980)

"The first time I heard that record, I wanted to join a band. I was probably 11 or 12 when it came out, but it really affected me when I was 13 or 15. I was going to see my first shows, and they had something I could listen to that I wanted to join. I saw the four guys onstage and said, 'I want to be one of those guys.' The album was a soundtrack to that feeling."



Phil Collen (Def Leppard)
Prince and the Revolution
Purple Rain
 (Warner Bros., 1984)

"The first time I heard it, it blew me away. It was one of those breaking-down-a-few-barriers type of records. There were elements of rock, of funk, of dance—of everything, really. I really dug it for its bravery and open-mindedness. It was its own thing."

James Iha

(Smashing Pumpkins)



The Beatles
White Album
 (Capitol, 1968)

"Great songs and great voices. It has a homemade, intimate sound that draws the listener in. It also has a cool album cover!!!"



The BEATLES

Juliana Hatfield
The Replacements
Let It Be
 (Twin/Tone, 1984)

"The Replacements were the Rolling Stones of the Eighties. Discovering them amidst the over-produced crap all over the airwaves at that time was a revelation. Hearing that album was like coming out of a cave after five years and meeting your best friend at the mouth, where the light is."

Harold Chichester (Howlin' Maggie, Afghan Whigs)

Sly & the Family Stone
There's a Riot Goin' On
 (Epic, 1971)

"I learned every part played by every instrument on that record. When I was about eight years old, my older brother joined the Columbia House record club. After he spent that first penny on nine or 10 records, he didn't keep up with it, but they still kept sending him records anyway, one of which was *There's a Riot Goin' On*. He thought it was okay, but I loved the song 'Family Affair.' I remember asking him about some words in that song, what the lyrics 'Blood is thicker than mud' meant. He said, 'If you've got a glass of mud and a glass of blood, then blood is thicker.' It was a ridiculous explanation, but I loved that song, so he gave me the album."

David Hidalgo (Los Lobos)
Duane Eddy
"Rebel Rouser"

"I heard this when I was a little kid, and it struck a chord with me immediately. I thought, 'Yeah, there you go,' and fell in love with the guitar, a love that's never dimmed. That's what motivated me to do what I do. There was also a song called 'Caterpillar Crawl' that I had on 45; I just loved it. I don't even know who did it, but it was the heaviest thing I ever heard. I've never been able to find it, though I sure have tried. If anyone knows who did it, or where I can find it, please contact me!"

Cesar Rosas (Los Lobos)
Jimi Hendrix Experience
Axis: Bold As Love
 (Reprise, 1967)

"A lot of records rocked my world by being totally different, changing the way I thought about music: The Beatles' *Revolver*, James Brown's *I Can't Stand Myself (When You Touch Me)*, Cream's *Disraeli Gears*, everything by Howlin' Wolf—but especially the single "300 Pounds of Heavenly Joy"—Stevie Wonder's *Music of My Mind*, Bob Marley's *Catch a Fire*. All of these records were visionary, ahead of their time, but none more so than *Axis: Bold As Love*, which still sounds fresh and modern today.

"Axis really turned my head. It had all the key elements of everything I loved: blues, pop, soul and psychedelia. It had great sounds and great songs. It changed the way that people, myself included, thought about music and guitar playing."

1989

Parents said, "Your guitar playing
would never amount to anything...
...get a real job!"

**a lot of good ideas never saved
NEVER GOT RECORDED**

1994

Girlfriend said, "Pay more attention
to me...and stop playing that guitar!"

**more great ideas never saved
NEVER GOT RECORDED**

1995

Wife said, "That distortion is
giving me a headache."

**best ideas never saved
NEVER GOT RECORDED**

1997

Stopped the complaining & moved on—
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Marilyn Manson

Marilyn Manson
David Bowie
Diamond Dogs
(RCA, 1974)

"My favorite record, the one I listen to before we go onstage, is *Diamond Dogs*. It's not a full-blown concept album, but it has a great theme running through it. And I always thought Bowie's ambiguous sexuality was really interesting, because I just hate to see people who are so limited to be one thing. I love the idea of transformation. I don't remember the first time I heard it, but I remember hearing it about two years ago and it really hitting home for me then—I appreciated all the melody, and the vocals and guitars on it are so fantastic. It triggered nostalgic feelings immediately. Those are always my favorite records—the ones that take me back to another time are always the ones that mean the most."

Zim Zum
The Beatles
White Album
(Capitol, 1968)
Pink Floyd
Dark Side of the Moon

(Columbia, 1973)

"I'd probably say the *White Album* or *Dark Side of the Moon*. They weren't something that I was originally attracted to, but my mom always used to listen to them all the time. And, at first, without actually realizing what I was listening to, I sort of grew into it. It was always there, it was the foundation of everything even when I didn't realize it."

Twiggy Ramirez
Twisted Sister
Stay Hungry
(Atlantic, 1984)
Mötley Crüe
Shout at the Devil
(Elektra, 1983)

"A tie between *Stay Hungry* and *Shout at the Devil*, because that period of my life was probably the best, being a teenager in Florida. Twisted Sister and Mötley Crüe, for that short period of time, were the best."



Marilyn Manson(left) and Twiggy Ramirez.

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"THE ALBUM THAT Changed my life"

David Lowery (Cracker)

The Buzzcocks
Singles Going Steady
(I.R.S., 1979)

"It made me think for the first time that I could write my own songs and have my own band."

Bob Weir (Grateful Dead, Ratdog)

Junior Wells
Hoodoo Man Blues
(Delmark, 1965)

"It was just a really spare blues quartet, with Junior Wells, Buddy Guy on guitar, Sam Lay on drums, and I forgot who on bass. That's all there was to it. I liked that simplicity."

Alex Lifeson (Rush)

Led Zeppelin
Led Zeppelin
(Atlantic, 1969)

"This was just what I needed at the age of 15. It had a cool singer, big drums, great guitars and heavy atmosphere."

Steve Jones (Sex Pistols, Neurotic Outsiders)

The New York Dolls
The New York Dolls
(Mercury, 1973)

"I loved it. It was one of the albums I'd always listen to a lot. I really got off on it, you know?"

Ruthie Morris (Magnapop)

R.E.M.
Reckoning
(I.R.S., 1984)

"I grew up on R.E.M. If they hadn't existed, I probably wouldn't have picked up an instrument. I'd heard about their first album, *Murmur*, and stuff like that when they started coming out, but it took some time for it to strike me. I bought *Reckoning* after I saw the video for 'So. Central Rain,' and everything about it felt like...wow! To this day, I put that record on and feel better every time I hear it."

Nigel Pulsford (Bush)

Neil Young
Tonight's the Night
(Reprise, 1975)

"That album warned me—very concisely—

of the disillusionment that lay ahead in my life. Musically, there were no frills; it was all cut to the bone. It shows that you don't have to be flash; you can still put things across when you're too drunk to play, which is often the case with Neil on that album."

Ray Davies (The Kinks)

The Kinks
"You Really Got Me"
(Pye, 1964)

"I'd had that sound in my head for years before the record was made. I remember even in school, at music class, I sat down and talked to a music teacher, because she'd told me the guitar is not a complete instrument and that I should learn to play the piano. 'An orchestra is the only complete sound,' she said. But I said, 'Maybe I can build an orchestra out of guitars.' And that's what 'You Really Got Me' is: Beethoven's Fifth with a backbeat. Beethoven got that sound with a whole symphony orchestra. I had four instruments. And that fulfillment—the fact that I achieved that wall of sound, with the help of the Kinks and our producer, Shel Talmy—changed my life."

Continued on page 96

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60 MINUTES with VERNON REID

By Vic Garbarini

SHARP-EYED READERS HAVE probably noticed that the guitarists *Guitar World* has harassed into coughing up an hour's worth of music for "60 Minutes" have not been limiting themselves to the work of fellow guitarists in their selections. Punk jazz alterna-shredder Vernon Reid is no exception: "Santana said his playing was influenced by the sound of Dionne Warwick's voice, and she had the same impact on me as a kid," says Reid, which may explain why one of the cuts on the former Living Colour leader's solo album, *Mistaken Identity* (Sony/550), is called "You Say He's Just a Psychic Friend." Vernon, who channeled the following tunes for his travel tape, wants everyone to know he'd sneak along an extra cassette with "Nubian Sundance" by Weather Report, "Cold Sweat" by James Brown, "Joy Inside My Tears" by Stevie Wonder and "Three Is a Magic Number" by De La Soul.

"AMELIA"

Joni Mitchell

Hejira

(Elektra/Asylum, 1976)

"SHE SINGS ABOUT driving across the desert, seeing six jet planes leaving vapor trails, 'the hexagram of the Heavens.' It was 'the strings of my guitar' and yet it wasn't—'a false alarm,' she concludes. To me it's about interconnectedness, about how you don't know what inspirations or associations someone might get from observing you or hearing you whistle a tune. Suddenly, a whole new thing is set in motion. And musically, it's so full and spare at the same time. Just guitar, bass and percussion."

"LET'S STAY TOGETHER"

Al Green

Let's Stay Together

(Motown, 1972)

"IN THE BEST soul music, there's an implicit communication with the people you're singing to, a shared idea. When Al sings, 'Why, somebody, do people break up?' he doesn't have to say 'Somebody tell me why.' That's implied, and the people who that song was intended for get it. Completely."

"MEETING OF THE SPIRITS"

The Mahavishnu Orchestra

The Inner Mounting Flame

(CBS, 1971)

"JOHN McLAUGHLIN WAS doing for jazz guitar what the Sex Pistols did for rock. It was punk jazz—Weather Report even had a song called 'Punk Jazz.' McLaughlin's playing was so radical. It was really raw, and yet so otherworldly."

"I'M TAKING A DEVIL OF A CHANCE"

Lightnin' Hopkins

Double Blues

(Fantasy, 1964)

"THIS SONG HAS a level of sophistication and urbanity that's always denied in discussions of the blues—as if there isn't a literary dimension to the form. In this song, a woman friend asks Hopkins to dance, but he won't because she's married. He finally gives in, and they have a great time. He wants to dance some more, but now she says no, here comes my husband. I just love the way he deals with the idea of a male and female friendship that isn't sexual. But the threat of sexuality, or maybe a misunderstanding, lurks in the background. And you feel that tension."

"SHE WATCH CHANNEL ZERO?"

Public Enemy

It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back

(Def Jam, 1988)

"JUST FOR THE sheer, headbanging intensity of it."

"BIG TAKEOVER"

The Bad Brains

Attitude: The Roir Sessions

(Relativity, 1982)

THEY'RE ONE OF the progenitors of hardcore, totally unique because they fused two kinds of music. They did reggae, and they did hardcore like post-funk rock. People were just completely weirded out by how intense they were. An unbelievable live band.

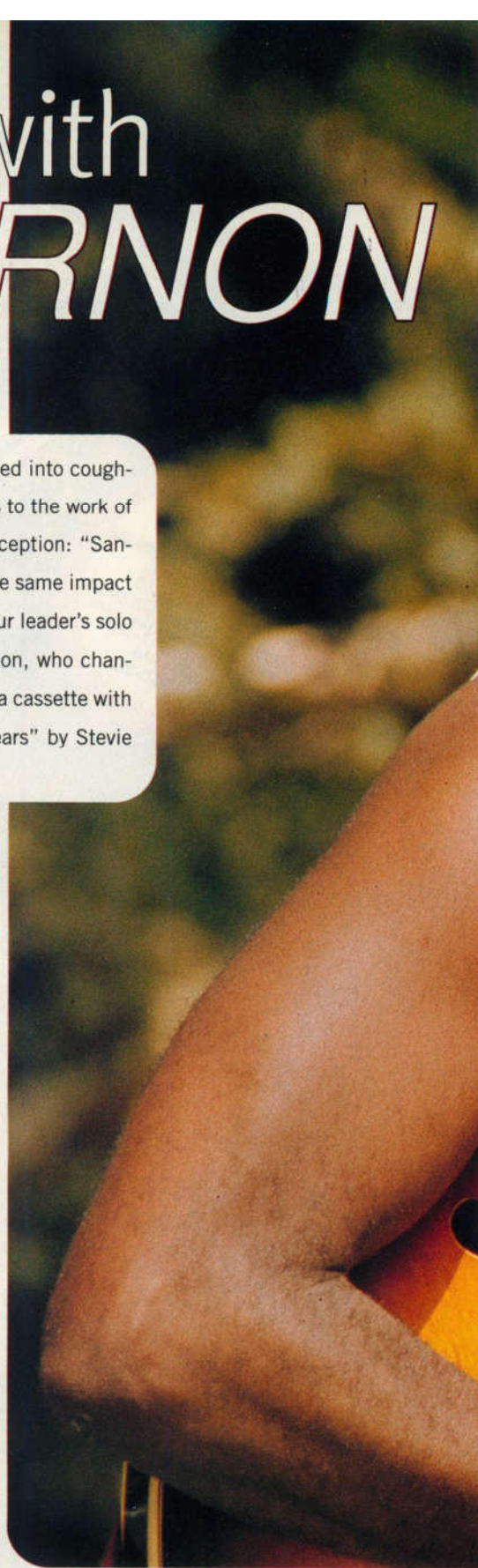
"THE PUMP"

Jeff Beck

The Best of Beck

(Epic, 1994)

"BECK'S VOICE on the instrument is so individual. He plays guitar because he doesn't have to—he stays because he can leave. And there's such a full emotional range in his playing. He can sound pissed off, and then



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there's him just being so sweet and loving. And then there's Jeff just *snickering*."

"SONG OF THE WIND"

Carlos Santana
Caravanserai
(Columbia, 1972)

"I ORIGINALLY WANTED to play woodwinds. Then I heard Santana, and his sound spoke to me. As a musician, you pick the instrument that

you can speak through without your voice being involved. I can listen to this song over and over again. Carlos fully shows up for life—he's completely open."

"UP FROM THE SKIES"

Jimi Hendrix Experience
Axis: Bold as Love
(Reprise, 1967)

"IT'S PROBABLY THE oddest thing he ever

did—almost a vamp, really. It's the one Hendrix song that I can play and sing, and it's just my favorite lyric: 'I have lived here before the days of ice, and of course this is why I'm so concerned/I come back to find the stars misplaced, and the smell of a world that is burned.' Where do you go after *that*, you know?"

"PEACEFUL"

Miles Davis
In a Silent Way
(Columbia, 1969)

"A MAGICAL RECORD for me. They weren't calling it 'ambient' then, but it's a precursor of that. It's about the spacing of the instruments and the phrasing. It's very, very calming."

"IN MY LIFE"

The Beatles
Rubber Soul
(Capitol, 1965)

"I'VE HAD A few friends of mine pass away who were really dear to me, and that song just fucks me up every time I hear it. Lennon's not being sentimental, he's just being vulnerable."

"LITHIUM"

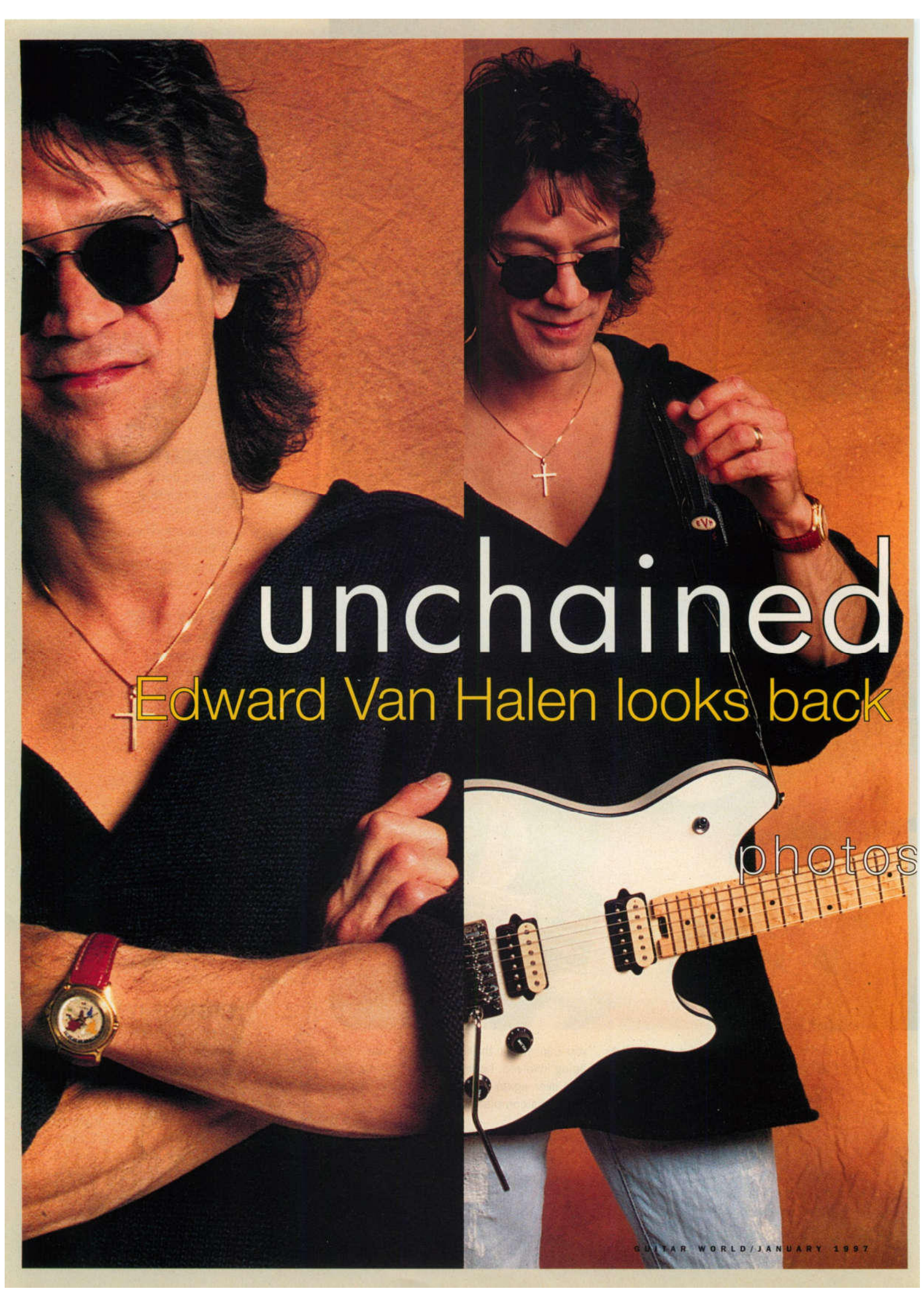
Nirvana
Nevermind
(DGC, 1991)

"I'M SO UGLY, that's okay, 'cause so are you.' There's no pretense there, no pretending to be the romantic hero or anything. It's so emotionally raw, so real. Kurt Cobain put the chords together in such a fresh, unusual way. And the bass line adds a brilliant, melodic component to the song."

"EPISTROPHY"

Thelonious Monk
Straight No Chaser
(Columbia, 1988)

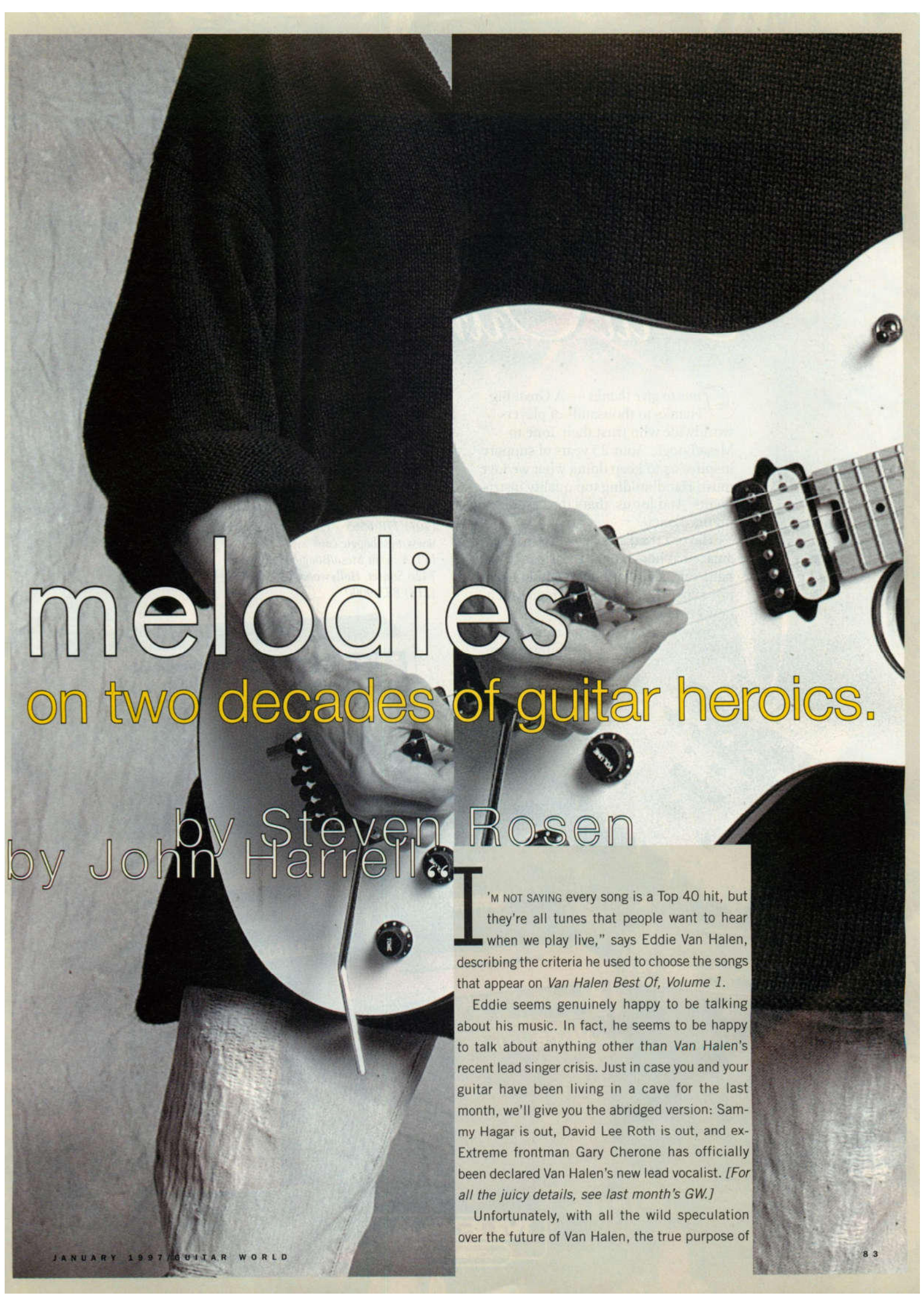
"I JUST LOVE this melody. I may be using the word 'otherworldly' too much, but it fits Monk. It starts with his name. If you're going to name your kid Thelonious Sphere Monk, you're heading out there. There's a deceptive simplicity to a lot of Monk's melodies, but they all have complete integrity and amazing depth." ●



unchained

Edward Van Halen looks back

photos



melodies

on two decades of guitar heroics.

by Steven Rosen
by John Harrell

I'M NOT SAYING every song is a Top 40 hit, but they're all tunes that people want to hear when we play live," says Eddie Van Halen, describing the criteria he used to choose the songs that appear on *Van Halen Best Of, Volume 1*.

Eddie seems genuinely happy to be talking about his music. In fact, he seems to be happy to talk about anything other than Van Halen's recent lead singer crisis. Just in case you and your guitar have been living in a cave for the last month, we'll give you the abridged version: Sammy Hagar is out, David Lee Roth is out, and ex-Extreme frontman Gary Cherone has officially been declared Van Halen's new lead vocalist. [For all the juicy details, see last month's GW.]

Unfortunately, with all the wild speculation over the future of Van Halen, the true purpose of

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Van Halen Best Of, Volume 1—to celebrate the band's brilliant past—has been obscured. To right this wrong, we asked Sir Edward, the guitar hero's guitar hero, to focus his sharp eye and dry wit on the 17 tracks featured on this, the first ever Van Halen retrospective.

GUITAR WORLD: Let's begin with what is perhaps rock's most famous guitar solo, "Eruption."

EDWARD VAN HALEN: That was originally just a guitar solo I performed regularly in our club days. When we were recording our first album, our producer, Ted Templeman, heard me practicing it for an upcoming gig and asked, "What the hell is that?" I said, "It's a thing I do live—it's my guitar solo." His immediate reaction was, "Shit, roll tape!" And I said, "Whatever you say, Mr. Templeman."

We did it twice and that was it. Actually, when I get up high on the neck I make a mistake, but what the hell? It was the first record I did in my life, and I didn't know I could say, "Hey, can I try it again?" I didn't know anything. I didn't even really know how to overdub. There are no overdubs except for very minimal stuff on "Runnin' with the Devil" and "Jamie's Cryin'." The rest is just guitar panned hard left and blowin' live.

GW: What do you remember about "Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love"?

VAN HALEN: Believe it or not, it started as a parody of punk rock. I just started slamming on two chords—A minor and G—and we were having a gas! Then I said, "Wait a minute, we can really make something out of this."

We actually wrote three songs in Dave's basement that day. I remember one of them was called "Bullethead"—"B-b-b-b-b-b-b-bullethead." [laughs] It was actually a pretty good song.

GW: It's funny you should mention that you were taking a shot at punk. In the recently published *Waiting for the Sun: The Sound of Los Angeles*, Van Halen is described as "...a hard rock/metal quartet from Pasadena who at the eleventh hour had decided against becoming a punk band." The author obviously missed the point of what you were doing.

VAN HALEN: Yeah, and so did a lot of other people. You should see the first album cover Warner Bros. designed for us—they tried to make us look like the Clash, or whoever. We said, "Fuck this shit" and came up with the Van Halen logo and made them put it on the album so that it would be clear that we had nothing to do with the punk movement.

It was our way of saying, "Hey, we're just a fucking rock and roll band, don't try and slot us with the Sex Pistols thing just because it's becoming popular."

GW: What can you tell us about "Dance the Night Away"?

VAN HALEN: It ended up completely different from how I'd imagined it. When you're writing a piece of music and other people get involved, it always turns into something else. It ended up having an almost Latin flavor to it, which I don't really dig. Still, it's a nice song—a pop tune.

GW: "And the Cradle Will Rock"?

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VAN HALEN

WARNER BROS., 1978

"Eruption," "Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love," "Runnin' with the Devil."

VAN HALEN II

WARNER BROS., 1979

"Dance the Night Away"

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST

WARNER BROS., 1980

"And the Cradle Will Rock"

FAIR WARNING

WARNER BROS., 1981

"Unchained"

1984

WARNER BROS., 1984

"Jump," "Panama"

5150

WARNER BROS., 1986

"Why Can't This Be Love," "Dreams"

OU812

WARNER BROS., 1988

"When It's Love"

FOR UNLAWFUL CARNAL KNOWLEDGE

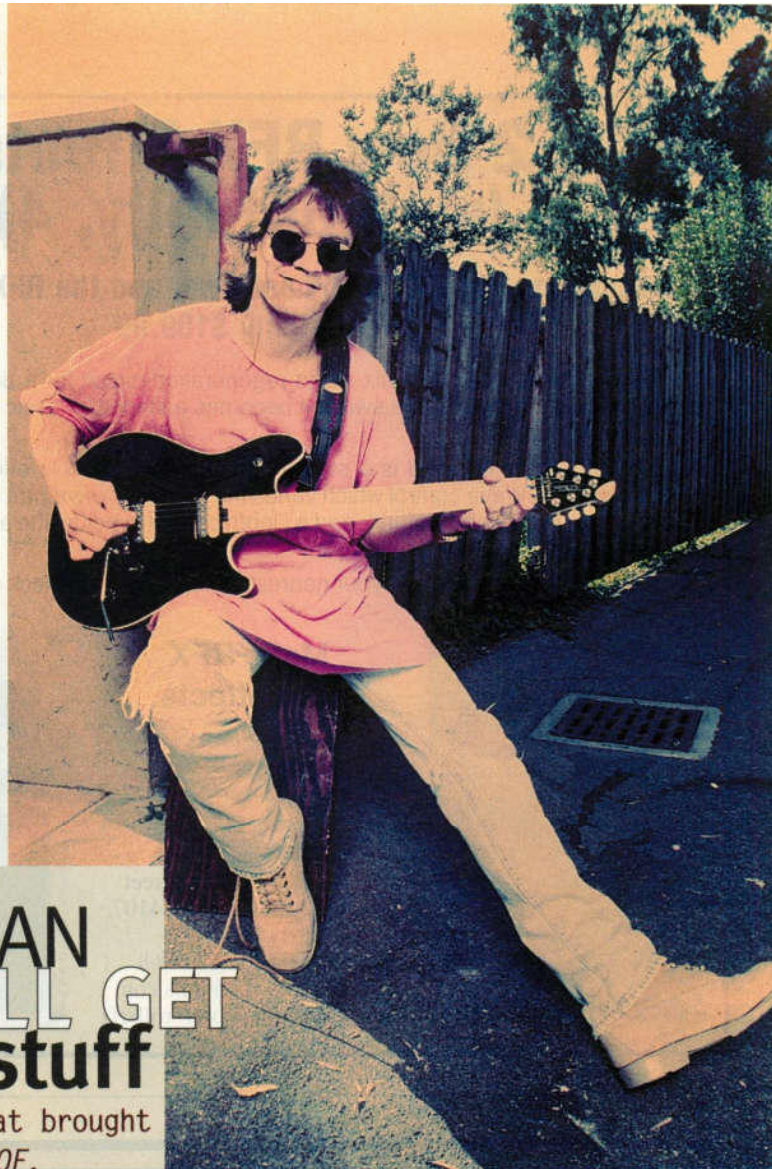
WARNER BROS., 1991

"Poundcake," "Right Now"

BALANCE

WARNER BROS., 1995

"Can't Stop Loving You"



VAN HALEN: Oh man, that was hilarious. I spent two weeks of rehearsals just pounding out this groove on an old Wurlitzer electric piano through an MXR flanger and a stack of Marshalls. Al and I were having a cool time playing it but the thing is I didn't have a clue where to take it. Finally, one chord came and it all snapped into shape. All the changes, the verse, the solo, the breakdown, all the pieces came after going nowhere for ages.

GW: Do songs often reveal themselves to you in that fashion?

VAN HALEN: Sometimes they come complete. Sometimes you have to work on 'em. Sometimes nothing comes. But one thing is for certain: you gotta keep working to enable it to come. You can't just sit around and wait for an idea to hit you, even though that tends to happen to me a lot more now that I don't drink. It's a wicked feeling when a complete piece of music comes to you. But it's not me, I'm just a vehicle—and I really believe that.

GW: The other side of that coin is that God, or whoever, decided to hitch a ride in your vehicle, as opposed to someone else's.

VAN HALEN: Oh yeah, yeah. I was chosen to do this, and the more sober I am, the clearer I am. I've been writing a lot lately. In fact, it's hard to stop—I just go and go and go. I even have a studio in the bathroom now; a Peavey combo amp, two self-powered Genelec speakers, an Alesis 8-track

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VAN HALEN

digital recorder, a Linn drum machine, an AMS stereo digital delay, a DAT, a harmonizer, a cassette machine and a Mackie mixer. And a saxophone and a fretless bass. It's just a little too small to fit a keyboard in there. [laughs]

GW: So it's been easier to compose since you gave up drinking?

VAN HALEN: Yeah, but it wasn't easy to convince myself that it would be. I swore to this therapist that there was no way that she would ever get me to write without a few beers. Drinking was the one thing I could count on to help me break down my inhibitions and loosen up. She said, "Give me 12 hours." I said, "You're wasting your time, it ain't gonna work." Then she had me do some yoga and some meditation and some chanting. And then we went outside and did a bunch of weird exercises for half an hour, to the point where I almost passed out. And then she had me sit down and relax. Next she told me to close my eyes and "imagine the room that you go to after you've had a six-pack of beer. Really try and feel that place."

I sat there for a couple of minutes and said, "Yeah, I'm kinda there." I kept my eyes closed, she handed me a guitar and I just started writing. I couldn't believe it. It only took an hour! I ended up writing five songs that day, including the music for "Me Wise Magic." It blew my mind. I just didn't want to believe I could do it without drinking.

The therapist said, "Look, you've been chosen to do this, all you're doing by drinking is blocking it. It's a lot easier for them to send it when you're clear." I just refused to believe it, but she proved me wrong. And now I can't stop writing in what I now call my "room." My wife, Valerie, recently said, "The next time you see your therapist, ask her how to get out of that 'room' and into the bedroom." [laughs]

GW: Getting back to the songs: what about "Unchained"?

VAN HALEN: Ummm, what was I thinking? I don't have a clue. That whole album, *Fair Warning*, was kind of a dark period. I don't know whether it was fueled by anger or whatever, but I ended up doing 90 percent of the guitar tracking at four o'clock in the morning with our engineer, Donn Landee. Nothing was really being done during the day, so I'd go back down at night and do it.

GW: "Jump"?

VAN HALEN: That was the first song I wrote that was recorded in my home studio, 5150.

GW: It was also a very important song for the band.

VAN HALEN: Yeah, and it's a pretty well-known fact that certain people didn't want me playing keyboards because they thought

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VAN HALEN

I should only be a "guitar hero." But hey, I'll play Bavarian cheese whistle, if I play it well—whatever that is.

GW: "Panama"?

VAN HALEN: It was kind of AC/DC-inspired. We had just done a tour with them the year before. It was us, Motley Crue and AC/DC in '83, in Europe, and just the power of those guys blew my mind—the constant "boom, boom, boom." They play the same song over and over, but it's a great song. AC/DC was probably one of the most powerful live bands I've ever seen in my life. The energy...they were just unstoppable.

I'll never forget our first big tour. It was a theater-sized tour—3,000-seaters. We headlined a bill featuring Ronnie Montrose and Journey. We were supposed to do 60 shows, but we left early because we had an offer to do "A Day on the Green" [a Bill Graham concert production held in Oakland, California]. I think Aerosmith and Foreigner were co-headlining.

We had our own trailer, and next door to us were AC/DC, who were also playing that day. Anyway, they went on before us, and I was standing on the side of the stage thinking, "We have to follow these motherfuckers?" They were so fuckin' powerful, but I remember feeling that we held our own. I

was really happy. It blew my mind. I didn't think anybody could follow them.

GW: "Why Can't This Be Love?" was your first big hit with Sammy Hagar. How did that come together?

VAN HALEN: I wrote that on an [Oberheim] OB-8 keyboard in my bedroom. It was one of the first songs where Sammy said, "You don't mind if I follow your keyboard melody, do you?" And I said, "No, not at all," though, in general, I don't really like the vocals to follow my instrumental lines. I'd much rather have the vocal line act as counterpoint. That's why I dig Glen Ballard, who produced the two new tracks on our *Best Of*. He's always searching for great counter lines. Our conceptual goal was to put lyrics and a melody over [sings the first four ominous notes of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5]. You know what I mean? What would you sing over that? But that would be the shit if it could be done. And that to me is the essence of a great and complete song: great music that stands on its own, great melodic music, great counter-vocal melody and great lyrics. And of course a good performance.

GW: Do you believe you've reached those goals on any specific track?

VAN HALEN: I don't think you ever reach complete happiness. If you do, it's done, it's over with. What I thought was the shit two years

ago just doesn't have the same impact on me now. I think it's just human nature to change, to get tired of the same thing. I don't know, I don't know what it is. I'm always experimenting and dicking around, but not because of any goal. Music is my life, and it's very, very hard work, which a lot of other people don't understand. It's not a nine-to-five job—it's a 25-hour-a-day job.

GW: "Dreams"?

VAN HALEN: That's the one song Mick Jones of Foreigner helped us produce. Mick was supposed to produce the whole *5150* album because Warner Brothers didn't trust us to do it on our own. But Foreigner was on the road while we were recording, so Mick really wasn't around much. So we would say, "Yeah, Mick's here producing." In the meantime, I produced Sammy's vocal and Donn and I engineered. Mick got the credit, but *5150* was really a band-produced effort.

GW: "Poundcake"?

VAN HALEN: Sometimes Al has a better ear for my playing than I do. I'll just play a hint of something, and he'll stop me and say, "That part right there." And more often than not, it will be something that will eventually evolve into a song. "Poundcake" came from Al recognizing the potential of a chord progression that I probably would have skipped over.

Continued on page 204

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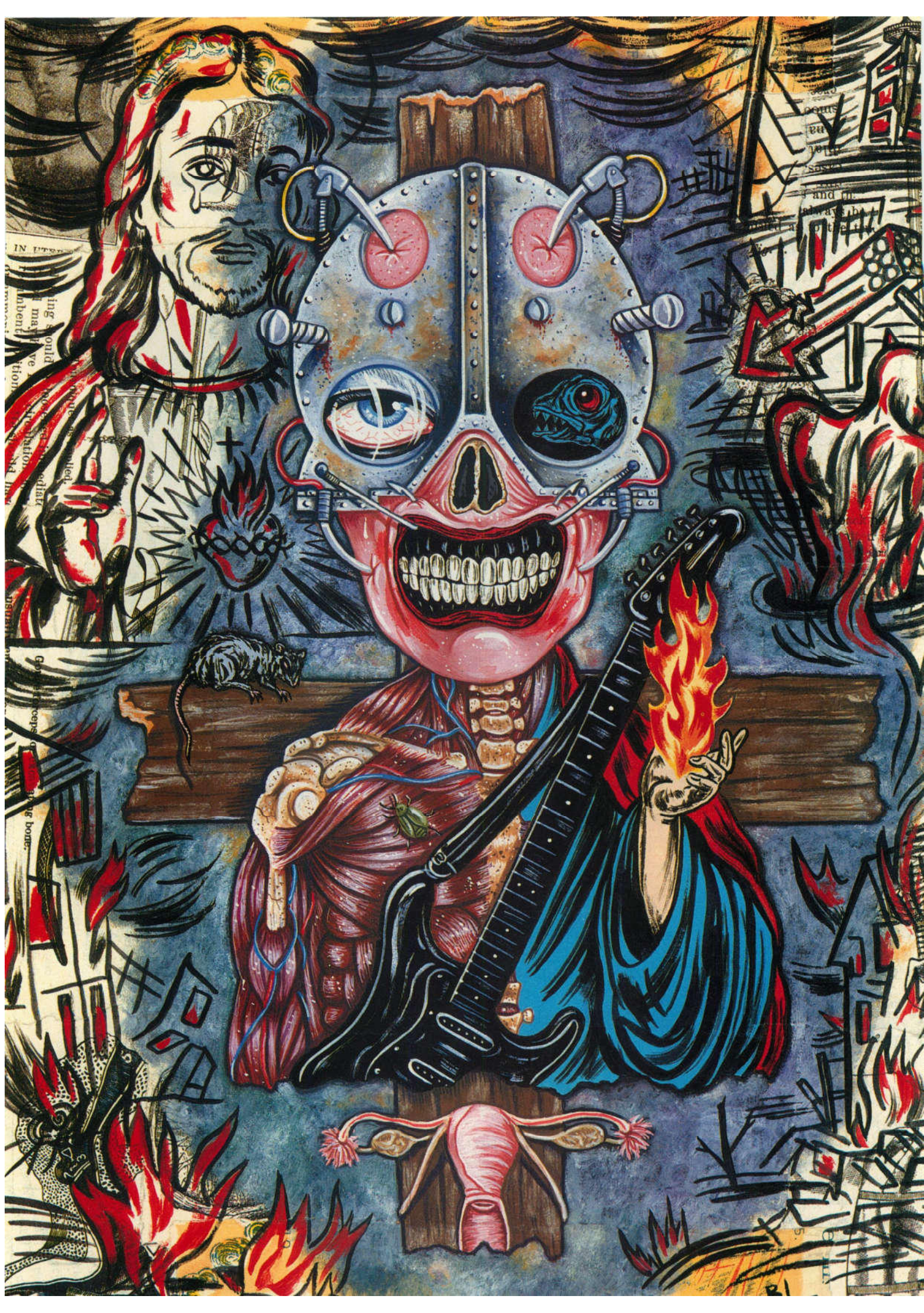


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S O U N D T H A T C A R R I E S



industrial WASTE

By Chris Gill

REVIEWS

IT'S BEEN NINE years since Al Jourgensen kicked the industrial revolution into high gear with Ministry's breakthrough album, *The Land of Rape and Honey*. By mating the machine-like precision of drum machines and samplers with the manic power of electric guitars, Jourgensen dumped jagged shards of metal onto the dance floor while converting a vast congregation of shredders into beat-hypnotized heathens.

But recently the industrial revolution has simply become revolting. While a handful of acts supply hope that the genre will continue to grow and prosper, most of today's industrialites exhibit little of the imagination or innovation that set the early radicals apart from the pack. These artists simply get themselves a guitar, a Marshall and a fuzzbox (which they use on vocals as well as guitar), dial up a catchy beat on a drum machine, sample some late-night television programs and shout "kill," "God," "Satan" and various four-letter obscenities into a microphone. Jourgensen would be having a good laugh right now if it weren't for the fact that some of these musicians are making a small fortune hocking the spoils they've robbed from his booty bag.

Abandoning his punky metal demon persona, Glenn Danzig reinvents himself as an industrial baron on his fifth album, *Blackacidevil*. Too bad Danzig didn't take a closer look at similar follies that have failed, such as Rob Halford's recent misguided industrial-lite outfit. Although guitarist Jerry Cantrell of Alice In Chains contributes heavy riffs to three songs, most notably a cover of Black Sabbath's "Hand of Doom," this industrial-by-numbers album is bogged down by Danzig's monotonous guitar playing, unimaginative grooves and feeble Jim Morrisonisms.

The album starts with two fuzztone-driven, blatant Ministry rip-offs: "7th House," with a vocal melody lifted from White Zombie's "Electric Head, Pt. 1 (The Agony)" (which in turn was stolen from "Attack Ships" by Jourgensen's side project, the Revolting Cocks), and "Blackacidevil," featuring a drum pattern filched from Ministry's "Stigmata." With its pulsing bass drum and synth line, "Sacrifice" is disco Danzig. Here, the singer hammers obvious Nine Inch Nails references into listeners' brains with thinly veiled Reznor-inspired lines such as "I want to look into your other face" ("I want to fuck you like an animal") and "Under the downward side" (*Downward Spiral*, perhaps?). By the time the album reaches the sampled porno moans on "Serpentina," it's obvious that Danzig couldn't even ignite a bucket of gas with a spark of the imagination that inspired this album.

Things get better, but not much, on Pig's *Sinsation*, released by Trent Reznor's Nothing label. Although Pig's mastermind, Raymond Watts, cops the deranged vocal style, rich orchestration and jazzy tempos of Foetus (a.k.a. Jim Thirlwell, one of the

industrial genre's early leading forces), he can be excused somewhat since he played in Foetus's touring band and Foetus produced one of Pig's early 12-inch singles. But Pig sounds so much like Foetus that the question to be asked is why didn't Reznor just sign Thirlwell instead, especially since he's no longer signed to a major label?

Reznor may have fallen short of the target with Pig, but he scores a dead-on bull's eye with his other discovery, Marilyn Manson, whose latest effort, *Antichrist Superstar* (Nothing), is a surprisingly refreshing album that shows that there's still potential for industrial growth. Divided into three parts, *Superstar*'s Gothic-rock opera digs into the relationship between apparent opposites such as birth and death, love and hate, and good and evil.

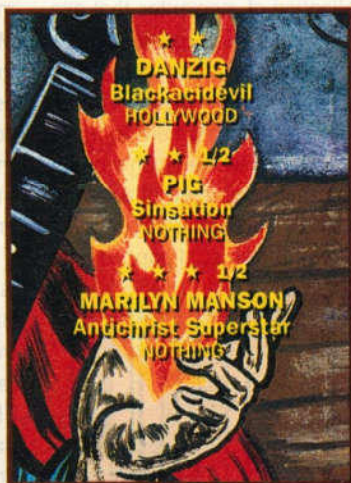
Although the band doesn't exactly hide its musical influences

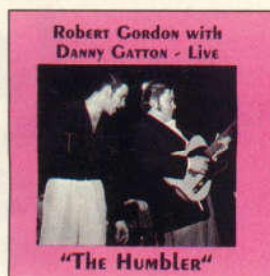
in a dark, musty dungeon, it blends them in a slap-happy manner, injecting a healthy shot of humor, contrast and irony so the songs come across as inspired instead of contrived. For example, the album's first single, "The Beautiful People," is propelled by an irresistible, tribal Gary Glitter-cum-Adam Ant Burundi beat spiked with vintage Metallica-esque guitars and crosses over to a creepy bridge reminiscent of Bauhaus' "Dark Entries." But just as the song begins to sound menacing, vocalist Manson chatters in a goofy falsetto for comic relief. Although most of "Dried Up, Tied and Dead to the World" lurches along like a forgotten NIN track, it crescendos into a satisfying,

Korn-like cacophony of power chords and dissonance.

The second segment of *Superstar*, subtitled "Inauguration of the Worm," chronicles the transformation of a worm-like character into a winged creature. Oddly enough, this is where Mr. Manson shows that he does indeed have a few original bones in his self-mutilated body, and the band's characteristic personality begins to blossom as the worm turns into a noble beast. Chugging to a spastic beat-box breakdance rhythm, "Wormboy" reaches back to an era that most industrial acts have forgotten, but the band's threatening presence ensures that no one will mistake this cut for a nostalgic trip down memory lane. "Mister Superstar," which boasts some satisfyingly sleazy guitar playing by Reznor and departed member Daisy Berkowitz, cops a Sixties go-go 'tude, but ends up sounding like the backdrop music for an amputee sex act in some sordid strip club circa 2010.

Most industrial albums paint a dark prophecy of impending doom, but *Antichrist Superstar* celebrates some sort of redemption at the end of the line, even if it's only the transcendence of Manson into the "rockstar" or "superstar" he mentions so frequently in the album's lyrics. While *Antichrist Superstar* may not deliver a wholly redeeming message, it sure makes the countdown to the apocalypse seem like one hell of a party. ●





★ ★ ★ ★

ROBERT GORDON WITH DANNY GATTON

The Humbler

NRG

LONG BEFORE THE late Danny Gatton was proclaimed "The World's Greatest Unknown Guitarist" by guitar magazines, he was worshipped by a small group of fanatics who had gotten their hands on a bootleg tape of one of his spectacular early-Eighties performances with rockabilly revivalist Robert Gordon. That tape (dubbed "The Humbler" by studio guitarist Amos Garrett, who used to listen to it before gigs for inspiration) has finally surfaced as a legitimate CD release, which will certainly satisfy fans who previously sought it with the same devotion as crusaders searching for the Holy Grail. The band's repertoire consisted mostly of rockabilly classics, but Gatton transformed the songs into virtual symphonies with his sophisticated rhythm accompaniment, virtuosic solos and incredibly diverse stylistic range. Whether hamming it up playing slide with a beer bottle, imitating a pedal steel with uncanny precision or picking a lightning-flash cascade of notes

that would make even Yngwie gasp, Gatton shows why he truly deserved the "greatest" tag he earned years later. An absolutely essential item for guitar music enthusiasts, and a highly recommended introduction for those unfamiliar with the work of this American legend.

—Chris Gill



★ ★

BLIND MELON

Nico

CAPITOL

THE 13 SONGS that comprise this album were being completed by Blind Melon when lead singer Shannon Hoon died. Accompanying the album is a notice that asks purchasers to consider *Nico* a collection of mementos that one pulls out of a drawer to elicit memories of a friend. Unfortunately, the statement comes across as a disclaimer rather than a tribute. There are no moving moments here to make anyone consider what a waste Hoon's death was. Considering that Hoon died of a heroin overdose, the band's cover of Steppenwolf's "The Pusher"—with the lyric, "I popped a lot

of pills/and I smoked a lot of grass/but I've done nuthin' that my spirit couldn't kill"—comes across as a sensationalistic, tasteless joke. Then there's the album's final track, "Letters from a Porcupine," featuring Hoon singing over an answering machine. While the song, with its abrupt final beep, is obviously meant as some sort of stark farewell to Hoon, it actually is just a tacky attempt to evoke pity for another overdose victim. Too bad the band couldn't let Hoon rest in peace.

—Holly Aguirre

★ ★ ★ ★

VARIOUS ARTISTS

The Mercury Blues 'N' Rhythm Story 1945-1955

MERCURY

MAE WEST ONCE said, "Too much of a good thing can be marvelous." Apparently guided by that wisdom, the folks at Mercury have tapped their archives and come up with eight CD's packed with a marvelous good thing: vintage r&b sides. While the raw r&b electricity most closely associated with labels like Chess, Atlantic and Vee-Jay is the stuff of legend, the more urbane and polished sides pioneered by Mercury have been largely forgotten. That makes this box set's spirit of glorious excess especially welcome, particularly when one considers the quality of the performances by the likes of the incomparable Dinah Washington, boogie-woogie king Albert Ammons and the Godfather of r&b, Johnny Otis.

But *The Mercury Blues 'N' Rhythm Story* is no mere footnote to the history of the blues. Back in the Forties, the combos and orchestras heavily featured on this compilation were really racking up the hits in Harlem and Chicago's South Side and setting the foundation for the birth of rock and roll. The discs are deliciously larded with screaming sax solos and rockin' rhythm sections, but guitar purists won't feel neglected either—a neat stash of rare tracks by Big Bill Broonzy, T-Bone Walker, Lightnin' Hopkins and Robert Jr. Lockwood should amply satisfy even the most insatiable appetite for tasty licks.

—David Grad

METAL DETECTOR

by Jeff Gilbert

GOMORRAH *Caress the Grotesque* (Black Mark) There are two ways to caress the grotesque: one is with a *Baywatch* marathon and a jumbo bottle of Jergens. The other is with this serviceable black metal album and its accomplished, Slayeresque riffing. The latter option is a lot less...sticky. ★★ ★

EARTH CRISIS *Gomorra's Season Ends* (Victory) Gomorra seems to be a pretty popular word in metal these days. It's actually a vacation destination for all these death metal bands. Not surprising since Satan is their travel agent. ★ ★ ★

BRUTAL TRUTH *Kill Trend Suicide* (Relapse) This neo-industrial metal is so ugly it makes convulsive vomiting seem like a hobby and Cannibal Corpse sound like Duran Duran. And those are its good points. ★ ★ ★

MOONSPELL *Irreligious* (Century Media) Irreli-

gious. Is that anything like "undrunk"? The singer has a voice like a cable TV wrestler singing the hit arias of Plácido Domingo. It's hard to be fully evil when you sound like that. ★ ★ 1/2

INNER THOUGHT *Perspectives* (Dwell) I read a review of this record that said *Perspectives* was Inner Thought's most mature work to date. That's like saying Godzilla's latest two-step all over Osaka is his best landscaping yet. Fortunately, I happen to favor urban renewal. ★ ★ ★ 1/2

MILLENCOLIN *Life on a Plate* (Epitaph) Oh, boy! Another Green Day/Offspring knock-off! I guess I can finally throw out all my Ramones records. Millencolin have a three-second song called "Ace Frehley." Sorry guys, but Ace deserves at least seven. ★ 1/2

Jeff Gilbert says "howdy" to his doody.



★ ★ ★

COUNTING CROWS

Recovering the Satellites

GEFFEN/DGC

AFTER A THREE-year disappearing act, Counting

AIN'T TOO PROUD TO SHRED

By Moredechai Kleidermacher

The present-day guitar virtuoso refuses to die.

BOB BOYKIN & FIREPOWER

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (LEGATO): Firepower is the key word in this muscular jazz/rock workout. Commencing with the driving, funky, riffomatic "Hazardous Material," Boykin and company waste no time revealing that their aim is to totally kick your ass. Boykin's a ferocious soloist who segues from bop-style jazz phrases to wailing rock licks with the greatest of ease. His dexterity is matched by saxophonist Ernie Watts on their guitar/sax bout on "Gone Fishin'." Throw in a tight, cookin' rhythm section and you've got some hot stuff on your hands. ★ ★ ★

JON BUTCHER

ELECTRIC FACTORY (Blues Bureau International): Sounding like the ghosts of Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan stuck in a blender, veteran hard rocker Jon Butcher wails his Strat-ified little butt off here—particularly on "Cactus Flower," a slow, soulful blues on which Butch absolutely drains the emotion from his guitar. Too bad the songs, most of which sound like they were thrown together in about two seconds, don't match the quality of his playing; this is definitely a fast-forward-to-the-solos affair. ★ ★ ★

JAMES MURPHY

CONVERGENCE (SHRAPNEL): THOUGH the metal tracks on this solo outing from Testament's James Murphy are just your standard grind, the progressive stuff is quite sublime. The foundation—an unsettling reworking of the classic fusion track "Red Alert" (originally by the Tony Williams Lifetime)—is simply astounding, featuring a gonzo guitar match between Murphy and fellow shredder Greg Howe. And the prog-rock instrumental "Tempus Omnia Revelat" is an epic in every sense of the word. Murphy's slick, lightning guitar work should have you shouting "We're not worthy!" from a nearby rooftop. ★ ★ ★

GARY HOEY

BUG ALLEY (SURFDUG): Hoey seems less interested in demonstrating his prowess than in creating a rockin' record that's oodles of fun

to listen to. And he succeeds, resoundingly so. Along with some novel cover tunes (including cool, headbargin' versions of Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire" (!) and Santana's "Black Magic Woman," Hoey delivers smooth originals like the lush, tuneful ballad "Peace Pipe" and the brisk shuffle blues "Bug Alley" (featuring some slick licks from Hoey and guest guitarist Brian Setzer). Bug out! ★ ★ ★

ALLAN HOLDSWORTH

NONE TOO SOON (RESTLESS): Early in his career, Allan Holdsworth was a bold progressive-rock pioneer who soared to places few guitarists had ever visited before. He got a bit too far out for his own good, though, and for the last decade or so the much-copied guitarist has been wandering in some weird universe of his own. Unfortunately, he's still lost on this latest effort. Aside from a very smart cool-jazz reworking of the Beatles' "Norwegian Wood," most of this sounds like your average lounge-jazz group—with an alien on guitar. ★ ★ 1/2

PAT TRAVERS

LOOKIN' UP (Blues Bureau International): Travers shows some hints of the man we all knew and loved in his Seventies glory days as the sultan of hard groove rock. Singing and playing guitar with his former fire and soul on such powerhouse tunes as "Ice Queen"—a crushing, funky rocker with some searing wah-wah phrases—Pat is definitely "makin' magic" again. There is one big but here: there's only about half an album's worth of material. But that other 50%, oh boy. ★ ★ ★

VINNIE MOORE

OUT OF NOWHERE (Mayhem Records): With heavy-chunk metal boogie, sweeping prog-rock, funky stuff and some acoustic material, this latest release from Vinnie Moore is sort of a shredder's potpourri. The question is, who is the real Vinnie Moore? While his playing is hot throughout the album—from fat metallic assaults to sweet blues-laced runs—you never quite get the feeling that he's playing from the gut. For the most part,

this album feels cold and calculated, except for the album's closer, "Winter Sun," a perky acoustic thing with a casual, off-the-cuff vibe, on which Vinnie actually sounds like he's having fun. ★ ★ ★

NEIL ZAZA

SING (High Chief): Neil Zaza's *Sing* at times veers uncertainly from metal to funk to mellow stuff, but when he does find his voice, the results are quite moving. A good example is "Everything I Should Have Said..." a graceful ballad with lots of melodious and quietly passionate lead guitar lines. Often, though, Zaza sounds like he's just parroting his influences, as on "I'm Alright," where he does his best Eric Johnson, and on the too Satch-like "Halin'." But to give him his due, there is some swing to this *Sing*. ★ ★ ★

CRAIG ERICKSON

FORCE MAJEURE (Blues Bureau International): Erickson is a blues/rock player with no shortage of sweet, biting guitar licks in his carpet bag. The slickest moments of this album transpire when Craig and his axe are just jamming out, as in the hot lead break on "Everywhere," where Erickson pulls off a nice combo of plucky Albert King-style licks and wah-wahed Hendrix wails. Now, if only Craig could sing and write songs with the same aplomb. Force majeure. ★ ★ 1/2

MICHAEL LEE FIRKINS

CACTUS CRUZ (Blues Bureau International): While most shredders seem like they're in a rush to get somewhere, Michael Lee Firkins is more interested in just laying back and enjoying the scenery. Keenly working elements of country, blues and rock into a slick style all his own, Firkins sounds like a man clearly enjoying and appreciating his muse on this latest album. From the bayou blues stomp of "Freeway Lines" to the driving country rock of "Grandma Dynamite"—not to mention a heavy funk retread of the *Sanford & Son* theme—Firkins lays down sweet, smooth solos that'll have you gasping for air. Thumbs up! ★ ★ ★ ★

REVIEWS

Crows are back with an album full of catchy and consistent tunes. Unlike their debut release, which seemed like a vehicle for Adam Duritz and his angst-ridden Van Morrison imitations, *Recovering the Satellites* is a mature and grown-up sophomore effort that showcases the many talents of all the Crows. Producer Gil Norton brings out the best in the band from the opening track, "Catapult," where things get going with the warm, swirling sounds of Charles Gillingham's Hammond B3 organ. Guitarist Dan Vickery's hard-edged riffs shine brightly on the rough-and-tumble "Children in Bloom." The poppy, radio-friendly tracks "I'm Not

Sleeping Anymore" and the autobiographical "Have You Seen Me Lately?" may not have the hit potential of the Crows' earlier singles, but at least they don't sound even remotely like "Mr. Jones."

—Holly Aguirre

★ ★ ★ 1/2

FULFLEJ

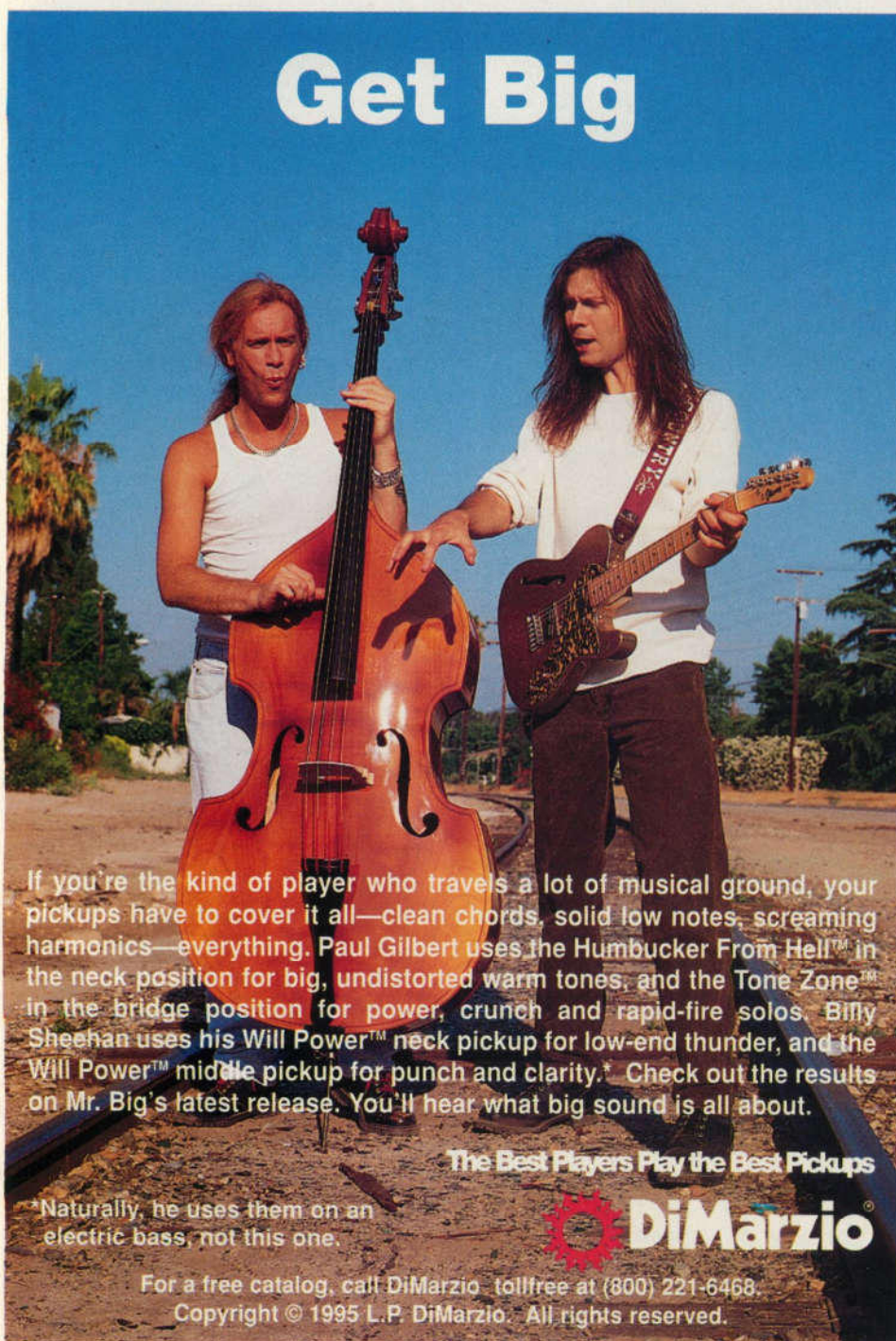
Fulflej (Wack-Ass Tuba Riff)

SCRATCHIE

PRODUCED BY SMASHING PUMPKINS' James Iha and D'Arcy, this Richmond, Virginia, trio's first album features sturdy melodies blanketed by layers of guitar distortion and

dynamics that build from sweet to ferocious. Clearly, Fulflej's apple doesn't fall too far from the Pumpkins' tree. However, Fulflej is an apple of a slightly different color. The band's rock touchstones are many and varied, from glam to prog-rock to hardcore punk. Jazz and hip-hop influences—hence the performing handles M.C. No Joke G, Andre Fill-Ups and Maff-yoo Nillsun—also show up throughout *Fulflej*, which makes the album's dynamics a bit sharper than those of a typical Pumpkins outing. "Pretty Lite Destruction" starts acoustic before swinging through metal and jazz touches. "Worms to Dogs," the album's best song, offers chiming folk-pop with a dash of hypnotic psychedelia. A devoted disciple of the guitar army school, No Joke seldom indulges to excess, which works to the benefit of this estimable debut.

—Gary Graff



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★ ★ ★ 1/2

JONAS HELLBORG/SHAWN LANE/APT. Q-258

Temporal Analogues of Paradise

DAY EIGHT MUSIC

I REMEMBER WATCHING an old tape of boxing great Sugar Ray Robinson, marveling at his ability to construct tactical solutions seemingly out of thin air. A friend explained that his thought processes weren't a whole lot different from the average person's; they were just a few quantum levels faster. That also explains folks like Shawn Lane and Jonas Hellborg. No matter how heady things get on the two-movement *Temporal Analogues of Paradise* (each extended composition stretches out for more than 25 minutes), the Pentium-speed logic demonstrated by Hellborg and Lane keeps the playing from degenerating into shrednik bombast. Recorded live in Europe, the album features Lane and Hellborg with Apt. Q-258 (a.k.a. Jeff Sipe) on drums, breathing fire through the power trio format, exploring territory last trod by Allan Holdsworth's I.O.U. bands. Despite the heavyweight chops present here (Lane's playing occasionally seems to exceed the limits of human capability), this disc's best moments come when the two stringsmen gear down for some often wonderfully lyrical musings. With its emphasis on sensitive interplay, tasteful phrasing and motivic exploration, *Temporal Analogues* is—dare I say it—enough to make the world safe for fusion again.

—Tony Green

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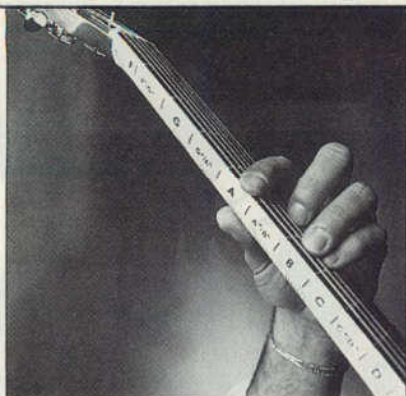
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Continued from page 78

**BRIAN "HEAD"
WELCH (Korn)**

**Faith No More
The Real Thing**
(Slash/Reprise,
1989)



"They were the first ones to cross over lots of different stuff, mixing heavy shit with keyboards and rap. It was eerie. I was about 17 when I first heard it, and listening to a lot of Metallica, 24-7 Spyz, Fishbone and Living Colour. I dug them all, but Faith No More moved me in a different way, and way more than anything else. That shit was just so bad. It totally changed my direction. It said to me that you didn't have to follow a certain path, that you could just create anything, go out and mess around with anything, that there were no rules. It showed me that you could just fuck around and come up with your own thing. I remember seeing them open up for Metallica, and everyone started booing them, going 'Rap sucks!' I was so bummed. I felt like screaming at everyone, 'Quit fucking booing them and listen.' They all just heard the rap beat and didn't give them a chance. Then, six months later, they were all over MTV and the same fuckers who were booing were probably lining up to see them. That taught me something, too."

FIELDY (Korn bassist)

**Red Hot Chili Peppers, Freaky
Style (EMI, 1985)**

Faith No More, Introduce Yourself
(Slash, 1987)

"That shit just fucked me up in the head, blew my mind and changed my life. Before that, I was listening to dirthead shit, just straight-up metal like Iron Maiden and Metallica. Then those two bands came up into my life and I was like, 'Fuck, man, that's still heavy, but it's not metal.' I just loved it. I became obsessed by it. I had always known that there had to be a way to take the bass further than just following the guitar, and these two records showed me the way. Actually, they were the last albums to blow my mind, but I'm still searching. I'm constantly looking for that phat-ass band that will rock my world."

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photo: Bob Sebree



ROBBY KRIEGER (The Doors)

Bob Dylan

Bringing It All Back Home

(Columbia, 1965)

"This was right after he went electric, and it brought folk music and rock together for me. It really amazed me that Dylan could make what was still basically folk music sound so cool. [Guitarist] Mike Bloomfield was amazing, as was the rest of the band. And, I must confess, the whole theme of the album's lyrics for me was...acid. I had just taken acid and was really getting into it, and I could tell where he was coming from, especially on 'Subterranean Homesick Blues' and 'Mr. Tamborine Man.' I loved the words-as-images concept. It was like he was on the same trip as I was—and he was expressing it, something I couldn't even begin to do. This was just before the Doors formed. I was listening to this album constantly, but I couldn't even call it an influ-

ence, because I felt that Dylan just inhabited a different world than everyone else, myself included."

MIKE CAMPBELL (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers)

The Rolling Stones, Big Hits (High Tide and Green Grass)

(Abkco, 1966)

"This record was a very big deal to me. Every song was just great. I had it on vinyl, and I would slow down the record and learn the guitar parts. Also, they looked so cool."

BOB WEIR (Grateful Dead, Ratdog)

Junior Wells, Hoodoo Man Blues

(Delmark, 1965)

"It was just a really spare blues quartet, with Junior Wells, Buddy Guy on guitar, Sam Lay on drums and I forgot who on bass. That's all there was to it. I liked that simplicity."

GARY LEE CONNER (Screaming Trees)

Love, Forever Changes

(Elektra, 1968)

"That's probably my all-time favorite album. I started listening to that in about 1980, when I was pretty young. It's just such an amazing record. A lot of it's not even rock—there are strings and horns all over the

place—but I really like the feel, the emotion and stuff. I read an interview with [Love leader] Arthur Lee, and he said that the whole time he was doing this record, he thought he was going to die. There's some sort of attitude to it that makes me go back and listen to it many times."

MIKE GORDON (Phish)

Janis Joplin,

Joplin In Concert

(Columbia, 1972)

"*Joplin In Concert*

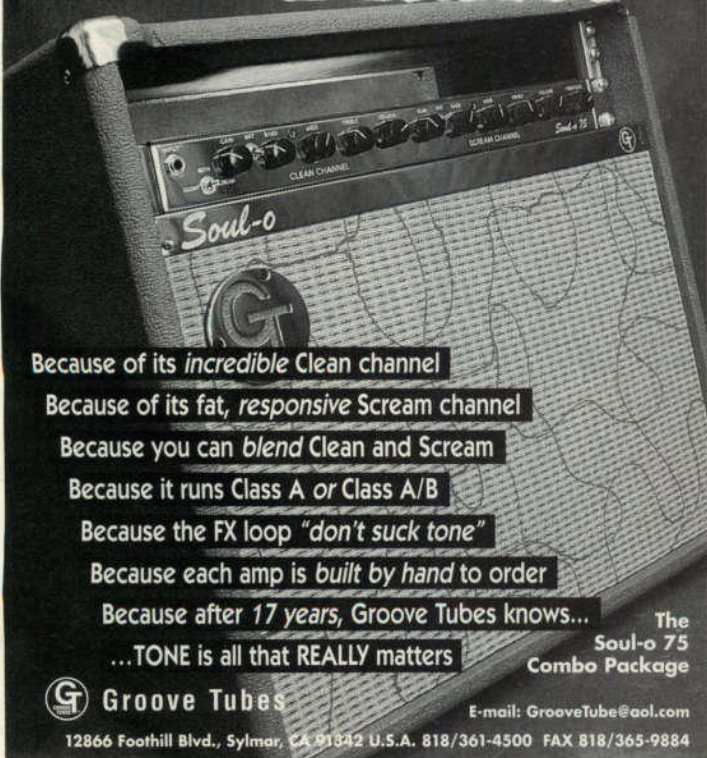
was the first record

I ever learned

basslines to. My parents had it, and when I was about 13 I took it up to my room and started playing along on my first bass, which cost 99 dollars, including an amp. That record was also was the first time I had heard someone who sounded like they were putting their whole soul into what they were singing. I knew that she had died young, and my interpretation was that she had died because she had put so much of herself into her music that there was nothing left. There was one section where she was just moaning, and I remember wondering if I could ever put that much of myself into my music. I'm still working on it."



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MARK FARNER (Grand Funk Railroad)
Howard Tate, *Get it While You Can: The Legendary Sessions* (Mercury, 1967)

"He was a blues singer, and his voice touched my soul like nothing else ever did. It really moved me. I tried to use him as a basis for my vocal style, along with Aretha Franklin."

COREY STEVENS

The Rolling Stones
Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!
(London, 1970)

David Bowie, *Let's Dance* (EMI, 1983)
"Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!" totally changed my life. I just loved the interplay between the two guitars [of Keith Richards and Mick Taylor]. You can hear everything they're doing because they don't step on each other.

"I was a messenger in Hollywood when *Let's Dance* came out, and I delivered the art-

work for that album. I was looking forward to it coming out, because I was a Bowie fan, and I put it on and heard this guitar player [Steve Ray Vaughan] who really blew my mind. I said, 'Wow, I want to play like this.'"

BILL KIRCHEN (Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen)

Bob Wills
Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys (MCA, 1958)

"Someone in the Cody band found it in a cutout bin. It had great stuff on it, including 'Fat Boy Rag' and 'New San Antonio Rose.' We'd never heard anything like that. We didn't know from Western swing. We started going wild, going 'Hee-yah!' and yelling 'Flea bite!' after solos."

DEAN WEEN (Ween)

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"I grew up listening to punk rock mostly. When I was about 15, though, I discovered drugs, and subsequently found Jimi Hendrix. After that I spent the remainder of high school in my room, smoking pot and playing guitar. I'm not so sure that this is my favorite Hendrix record even, but it was definitely the record that changed my shit around completely. It's hard for me to relate to someone

who hasn't smoked a joint and listened to Hendrix at least once in their life. It's up there among the finer things in life—sorta like taking acid and listening to *Dark Side of the Moon*. It's just part of growing up."

JOEY MAZZOLA (Sponge)

The Rolling Stones, *Beggar's Banquet* (London, 1968)

"There's a little bit of everything on there, and some of Mick Jagger's best lyrics ever. It surprises me after years of listening to it how a song like 'Street Fighting Man' sounds so heavy, and it's mostly acoustic guitars!"

MIKE CROSS (Sponge)

Aerosmith, *Toys in the Attic* (Columbia, 1975)

"When I was a teenager, I listened to it and learned how to play the stuff they were playing. It was my first real hard rock album, so I identified with that. I still listen to it today, and it's still one of my favorite Aerosmith records."

DAVE PEDERER (The Presidents of the United States of America)

Led Zeppelin, "Black Dog"

(*Led Zeppelin IV*, Atlantic, 1971);

Willie Nelson, *Stardust*

(Columbia, 1978);

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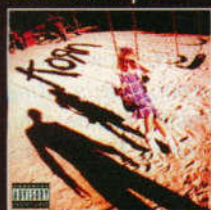
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The Buzzcocks
"Everybody's Happy Nowadays"
(Singles Going Steady, I.R.S., 1979)

"We got asked this the other day, and Jason [Finn, drummer] had the best answer, which is true for me too: the album that most changed my life was *our first album*. Other than that, I would start with Led Zeppelin IV. We had it at our house, but it wasn't mine. One of my friends came over and saw it there and was like, 'Oh my God, have you heard this?' This was in fifth grade, which would have been 1975, a few years after it came out. He put on 'Black Dog,' and it just completely blew my mind. I just freaked out. I didn't do cartwheels in the room or anything, but it just completely changed my conception of reality. Like, 'Wow, that's what I want to do.'

"Another record that changed my life was Willie Nelson's *Stardust*. My folks listened to that a lot when it came out, and I've always owned it since then. It's just what music can and should be: beautiful songs, perfectly performed, with incredible singing and absolutely ingenious guitar solos. When it came out, I was in seventh or eighth grade, listening to Ted Nugent 96 percent of the time, so it was definitely a change of pace.

"Then in 1980, I was in a record shop in Seattle, going through the singles, and I saw a Buzzcocks single. 'Everybody's Happy Nowadays' was the A-side and 'Why Can't I Touch It' was the B-side. I remember listening to 'Everybody's Happy Nowadays' and then riding around on my bike all night, going, 'Oh God, oh God.' It starts off with that great doo-doo-doo-doo, and when the chords come in it goes up to the four chord and then to the four-minor: ding, diddy-diddy-diddy, ding, de-ding de-diddy. The intensity and the precision of the playing completely blew me away. So that's the one album and two songs that changed my life."

KIM COLETTA (Jawbox)
Big Black, *Atomizer*
(Touch & Go, 1989)

"Lots of punk records came before and after this one, but nothing captivated me more. I spent an entire summer in college working at a toll plaza, blaring *Atomizer* in my little booth. An angry, scary, yet oddly uplifting

record that convinced me that bass guitar rules the world."

The *Atomizer* album was reissued on CD, along with the band's *Headache EP*, under the title *Rich Man's 8-Track*. —GW Ed.

BILL BARBOT (Jawbox)
The Clash, *London Calling*
(Epic, 1980)

"One of only a handful of filler-free double albums, *London Calling* came at a time when I was growing disillusioned with the excesses and posturing of mainstream rock. Just when I thought guitar music had reached the end of its tether in endlessly wanky solos and mushy over-production, The Clash delivered two disks of humor, politics, aggression and plain old over-amped love songs, setting an awesome precedent for all sophisticated punk rock to come. Proof that, at least at the time, they really were The Only Band That Mattered."

JAGORI TANNA (I Mother Earth)
Van Morrison, *Moondance*
(Warner Bros., 1970)

"That's been in my life since I was two. My father always played it and would say 'Listen to this' or 'Listen to that,' pointing out stuff on the album. Whether it was Van Morrison, Santana or Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, he gave us an appreciation for really groovy music."

MIKE WATT (The Minutemen, Firehose, Porno For Pyros)
The Who
Live at Leeds
(Decca, 1970)

"Because you could hear the bass. I didn't know what bass was, but on *Live at Leeds* you could really hear it. That record—mine wasn't a record actually, but an eight-track—was a mind-blower, really intense for me."



Interviews by Nick Bowcott, Gary Graff, Alan Paul, Alan di Perna, Tom Gogola, Chris Gill and David Grad

The following entries were excerpted from MusicHound Rock: The Essential Album Guide (Visible Ink Press, \$24.95), edited by GW Contributing Editor Gary Graff: Weir, Shepherd, Reed, Simmons, Clayton, Kravitz, Matthews, Raitt, Townshend, Dylan, Buck, Jones, Farner, Morris, Sting, Kirchen, Chichester, Collen, Hennemann, Stinson, Watt, Shaw, Lowery, Mazzola and Cross.

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SMASHING PUMPKINS

Continued from page 38

music for the album, and had a friend of mine, Nina Gordon (of Veruca Salt), sing with me because she's got great tone and character in her voice. The guitar fills and slide guitar are in the style of Derek & the Dominoes, Clarence White, the Byrds and the Allman Brothers. We did one track of guitar fills with a Les Paul through an MXR phaser with a clean sound, as well as another track of Les Paul slide guitar which gives the song kind of a romantic sound, most of which was done in one or two takes.

"Set the Ray to Jerry"

Another remnant of a distant *Siamese Dream* past, "Set the Ray to Jerry" was first written somewhere during the *Gish* tour. It's always been a band favorite, and seemingly only the band's, because no one ever mentions it. A sweet, simple song featuring only bass, drums, and some delayed James guitar. One night Flood and I put everything we had on a couple of tapes (about 40 songs) and just drove around Chicago until 3:30 in the morning deciding what was on or off the album. When we listened to "Set the Ray," it really moved me, but when I looked over to Flood he just shook his head no. That was the end of

"Set the Ray" on the album, because I trust Flood's opinion so much.

"Thirty-Three"

A simple song in a country tuning, "Thirty-Three" was the first song that I wrote when I came home from all the *Siamese Dream* touring. I took three days off, and this was literally the first thing that came out of my hands when I sat down. I was living in my new house for the first time, and this song conveys all of that. The "cha-cha-cha" sound is my drum machine through a flanger, and what you hear is the same one right off the demo because I couldn't remember how to recreate it. The stringy sounds are part Vocoder, plus five slide guitars tuned to one note each to create the chords.

"Tonight, Tonight"

When we were still in the middle of *Siamese Dream* touring, I booked us into a local Chicago studio to just put all of our ideas down to tape, without censorship of opinions, etc. "Tonight" was one of those ideas, but it was originally in the key of C instead of G. The only problem was I couldn't sing it in C, so I figured out the version on *Mellon Collie* to suit my limited range. I never thought "Tonight, Tonight" would be a sin-

gle. I just didn't think people would get it. Also, I have to say that recording the 30-piece string section was probably one of the most exciting recording experiences I have ever had.

"Tonite Reprise"

Originally slated to go on towards the end of the *Mellon Collie* album, this one was hacked off in the name of "When is enough too much?" I had just come back from the Chicago Bulls' tragic loss to the Orlando Magic in the playoffs, and was very depressed. My voice was hoarse from so much shouting. Flood threw up his famous mikes, and I just did it live. I used my trusty Gibson acoustic, with the rusty strings.

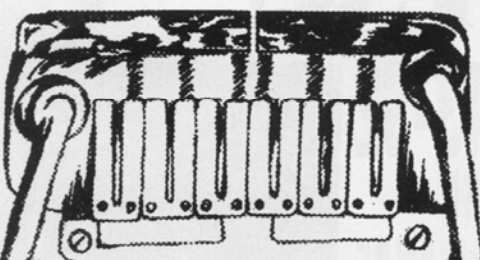
"Transformer"

Flood thought that "Transformer" was almost like a novelty song. But I always liked that crazy go-go beat. Recorded in Sydney, Australia, and Chicago, this song has about nine rhythm guitars, all playing the same three notes. Also, many of the guitars were sampled out and destroyed going back in.

"Tribute to Johnny"

Our tribute to Johnny Winter, circa 1974; a true
Continued on page 112

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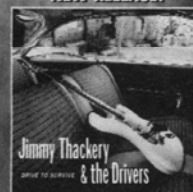
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SMASHING PUMPKINS

Continued from page 104

original, and one of my favorite guitarists.

"Ugly"

Slated as an album song until the very last moment, when *Melon Collie* was cut from 31 to 28 songs, this is an interesting interpretation of what had essentially been an acoustic song. Flood and I tried about four different versions before settling on this one [see *Queen's Hot Space* album]. One version that I liked was just me and a distorted guitar. But in the end this version won, only to be mixed into eternal obscurity as a B-side.

"You're All I've Got Tonight"

A really great Cars song, stripped of everything but the most basic riff to emphasize the heavy double-tracked drumming. Also, we added a Bay City Rollers-style stomp, with me and about eight of my friends stomping along with the third verse nicely out of time.

"Zero"

We like to call this style of our music "cyber-metal." "Zero" has six rhythm guitars, with two line-in 12-string acoustics, plus those wacky Iha leads. Tracked live with overdubs added later, this is a true mover as well as the first song that was recorded for *Mellon*

Collie. James has always said this reminds him of Judas Priest. ●

BUSH

Continued from page 52

sure people know that they will blow up their amps if they try it.

GW: So don't try this at home?

ROSSDALE: Not unless you can afford a new amp.

GW: Was Albini full of guitar tricks?

PULSFORD: He had a nice one, which is wrapping tin foil through the strings—over and under. And it sounds amazing. Just metallic shards of sound.

GW: Like a thin strip? About the width of a fret?

PULSFORD: Yeah. Maybe a little thinner. Just put it through the strings and plug into an amp. And he uses metal picks, which I'm starting to use now at home. He gave me some—a metal pick with a chunk taken out of it. It's a really nice sound. Steve was really just into absurd, obscene guitar sounds. Get a horrible sound and he loves it. The more extreme the sound, the happier Steve gets.

GW: Is your slide stuff in an open tuning?

PULSFORD: No, just a regular tuning. But I barely do any slide stuff on this album. On the last album, I used to tune the top two strings to B—and occasionally a dropped D.

ROSSDALE: Just in case you didn't hear the first B string.

PULSFORD: No, it's really good—you get a slight chorus effect because the two strings are never quite in tune, which is really nice. Gives you more of an edgy sound. But no, there's not really any slide on this record. We kept thinking, "Should we put slide on this?" But it never felt right on any of the songs. If I tried it, it would always sound like...

ROSSDALE: ...Here comes George Thorogood!

PULSFORD: I listened to an old Allman Brothers album, and it was fuckin' terrible. I was really surprised 'cause I remember hearing it as a kid and thinking it was really amazing. But it was really quite turgid... Thorogood I like, though.

GW: Do you guys share many musical tastes?

PULSFORD: That's how we got together. I was quite surprised. A friend of ours suggested that we work together.

ROSSDALE: You'd be hard put to find any difference in our tastes. That is, apart from Big Star. Big Star is the only one I haven't got from Nigel. I really *want* to like Big Star because everybody says how seminal they are. I did like some of the sweeter string stuff that Nigel played at the back of the bus all the time we were touring. But generally, we're the same in our tastes. If anything, it's



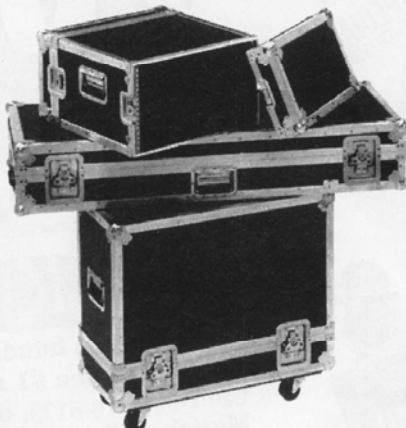
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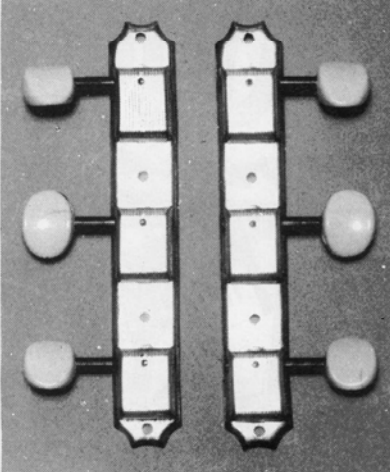


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BUSH

the rhythm section whose musical tastes I wouldn't step over a towel steeped in urine to listen to. Which is cool. Except Dave likes a lot of dub, which I love.

PULSFORD: It's great for a bass player.

ROSSDALE: But with other styles, I'm too busy telling Dave and Robin what I think they should like. I can't really work my way through Soundgarden, that lot. A bit turgid, that...A fuckin' horrible heavy rock band. That's the only problem I have with the whole alternative thing. A lot of these bands are so influenced by Judas Priest or Black Sabbath or all these horrible heavy rock bands that were always fuckin' awful.

And so a lot of them are just heavy rock bands with checked shirts on. Like Soundgarden. I mean, Chris Cornell is obviously an amazing singer. He's probably got the best rock voice you can have, technically. And occasionally he writes these great Beatles-y songs, like "Black Hole Sun," which are really fantastic. I like "Pretty Noose," I do like that track. Robin, our drummer, really likes Soundgarden. I can't think who Dave really likes.

PULSFORD: Jah Wobble.

ROSSDALE: But I like Jah Wobble too.

GW: But that's sort of what the Seattle revolution was about: metalheads coming out of the closet.

ROSSDALE: Everyone says "the Seattle sound," but that's such a generalization. The idea that Nirvana, Mudhoney, Pearl Jam and Soundgarden have similar sounds is ridiculous. If you know anything about music, you can hear the difference. Obviously, Mudhoney are closer to Nirvana, and Soundgarden are on their own. They're kind of heavy rock, today's Black Sabbath. Pearl Jam are now...I don't know.

GW: They've entered their classic rock phase, I guess.

ROSSDALE: Right, album-oriented rock.

PULSFORD: They did on their second album, really, didn't they?

ROSSDALE: The thing about Pearl Jam—their first record—is that they're at their best when they play to their strengths—when Eddie Vedder is singing those lovely kind of pop ballad songs. Like "Want" and "Black"—the ones he tries to get away from now. I think he does those mid-tempo songs really well. I don't necessarily like the sound of their records so much—that really thin snare and really sibilant, clean overhead stuff. That [producer] "Brendan O'Brien Special" sound is not really to my taste. It's perfectly viable, many people like it, but it's just not my taste.

GW: I know you're friendly with Courtney Love, but how do you rate Hole as a band?

ROSSDALE: I think they're really, really good.

I like them. I like what's-his-face—the guitar player.

PULSFORD: Eric.

ROSSDALE: Eric. He's a really interesting guitar player, really loping. And obviously the relationship between him and Courtney—kind of a brother/sister, love/fight vibe—is brilliant. The drummer, Patti, is really good. And the bass player, Toby. I've seen them a couple of times and they're very impressive.

GW: Did Courtney Love teach you anything about dealing with media attention?

ROSSDALE: Yeah. A lot. She basically always has been, and still is, really helpful to me. I've been really good friends with her for, I guess, about a year and a half. There was a kind of furor [in the media] because I was friendly with her. Then it all died down and everyone forgot that. I'd already been friendly with her for eight months before anyone noticed. I just never went anywhere public with her. Now all the press attention has died down, and she's still my friend.

GW: So it was never a relationship?

ROSSDALE: No. I know that sounds kind of boring, saying, "No, no, we're just good friends." But it's well known that she's sort of seeing some guy. So I think I'll just continue to be her friend. I find it sort of ironic. All the press: "She's crazy," and whatever. I like her and she's my friend and that's that.

GW: Were you at all prepared for the mass teen hysteria that Bush generated in America?

ROSSDALE: No. I don't think anything can prepare you for that kind of noise. The sound of all that squealing flesh. On the last tour of America, we played all the arenas and we had, like, the biggest rig. A two thousand-ton rig. And we still couldn't hear the music because there would be these screams.

PULSFORD: You would feel like you were going deaf. And it wasn't because we were too loud on stage. It was because of that wall of screaming when we came on. Your ears would just close down. Quite amazing.

GW: What's it like, being the object of all that teenage girl adoration, Gavin?

ROSSDALE: I like it. The only time I ever get offended by it is when they say something like, "Oh, you have such pretty hair." That pisses me off. My favorite ones are those who have some connection with a lyric or the music. But just to be affected by a photograph is somehow less endearing or warming. Then it's less fun. What's great is when you get someone who says, "You really got me through a hard time. Something was really going wrong in my life; my dad used to beat me up all the time. The only time I would get away was to go into my room and play your record." Or someone saying, "Your lyric is the first lyric I ever really listened to."



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A 17-year-old boy saying that. That kind of stuff. When you're nudging your way in culturally, that's kind of fun. But to be a pin-up just for pin-up's sake undermines all the work we put into this.

GW: So, Nigel, are you content to leave that kind of adoration to Gavin?

PULSFORD: Oh yeah. I don't really even think about it. But we all get some of that, you know. It just seems absurd. But that's life, I guess.

ROSSDALE: Well, it's not real life. But it's our life.

GW: How do you like married life, Nigel?

PULSFORD: It's cool. Just like life before, to be honest. Except I have this heavy weight. *[Shows wedding ring.]*

GW: Oh, that's a big one.

PULSFORD: Yeah, being married is fine. A wonderful thing. I recommend it to nearly anybody.

ROSSDALE: Been to any good wife-swapping parties?

PULSFORD: Not yet. It's important to cement a relationship rather than have it be just another relationship—especially when you're in a band and you're away a lot. It's a commitment, and it just makes everything a bit more real. And if it doesn't work out, see you

in court. *[laughs]*

ROSSDALE: Did you do a pre-nuptial agreement?

PULSFORD: Certainly not. Got too much respect for my wife. Besides, I can always kill her if there are any problems. ●

RAY DAVIES

Continued from page 64

GW: They're using Van Halen's version on the commercial.

DAVIES: Well, yeah. Theirs is more... automotive.

GW: Around the same time Pete Townshend was developing the rock opera, you were taking narrative rock in a different direction. On an album like *Arthur* [Reprise, 1969; originally the soundtrack for a British television movie], you were working on a more intimate, domestic scale than Townshend—writing for the small screen and dealing with everyday subject matter. To what extent were you conscious of Pete's work at that time?

DAVIES: I obviously focused on it. Because we thought the Who's first single was us the first time we heard it! [*"I Can't Explain" was patterned after "You Really Got Me"; both records were produced by Shel Talmy—GW Ed.*] So when they brought stuff out after that, we were obviously interested in what they were doing. It didn't surprise me when

they came out with *Tommy* [Decca, 1969], because I'd met them briefly at gigs and they were a bit more...I hate to say the word intelligent...but more focused than a lot of the other bands back then. Most of the bands the Kinks toured with were just in it for the fun: to make money and buy a nice car. But with the Who, you got the feeling that they were out to rewrite the rules. Which attracted me, because I was trying to do the same thing.

GW: But at the time, you weren't drawn to the grandeur of a concept like the rock opera?

DAVIES: No. Pomp has never appealed to me.

GW: Musically, at least, you never seem to have had much use for psychedelia, either.

DAVIES: Well, I did all my drugs at college. Like everybody else, I've done my share of experimenting. But it's nothing I'd want to base a career on. And at the time, there were other people who were doing that very well. So why should I? I love the concept of psychedelia because it makes me laugh. Music's got to have humor to it. Although I've written some humorous lyrics, I don't think I've ever come up with music as funny as most psychedelic rock. Look, I know the people who made those records were trying to say something about society and the world.

Continued on page 200

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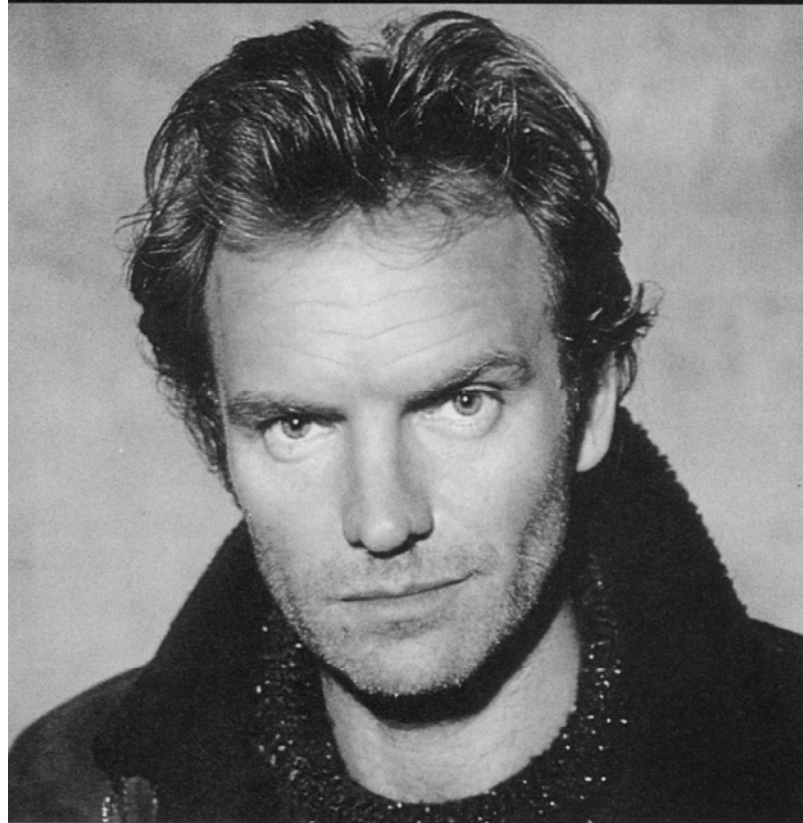
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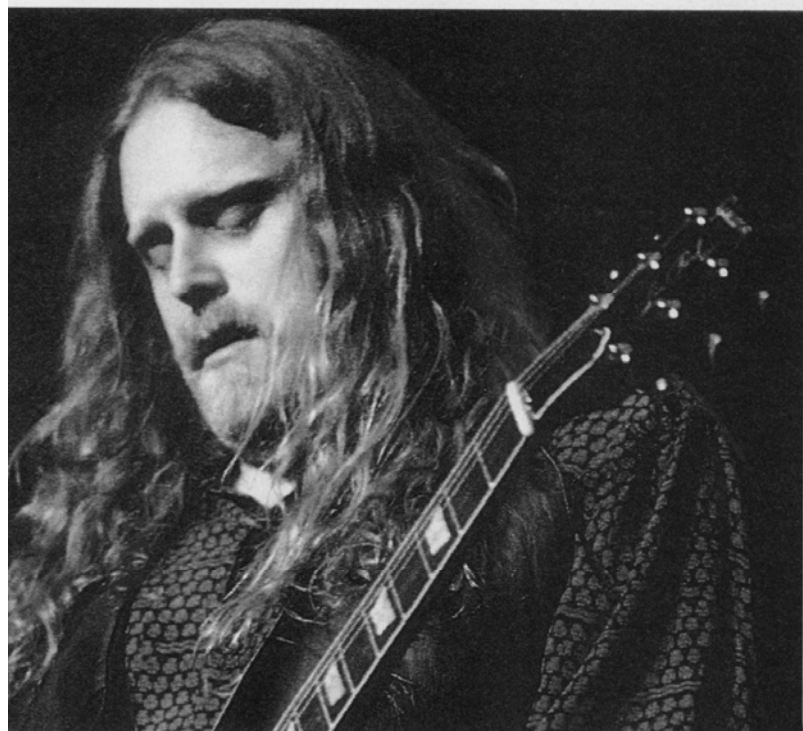
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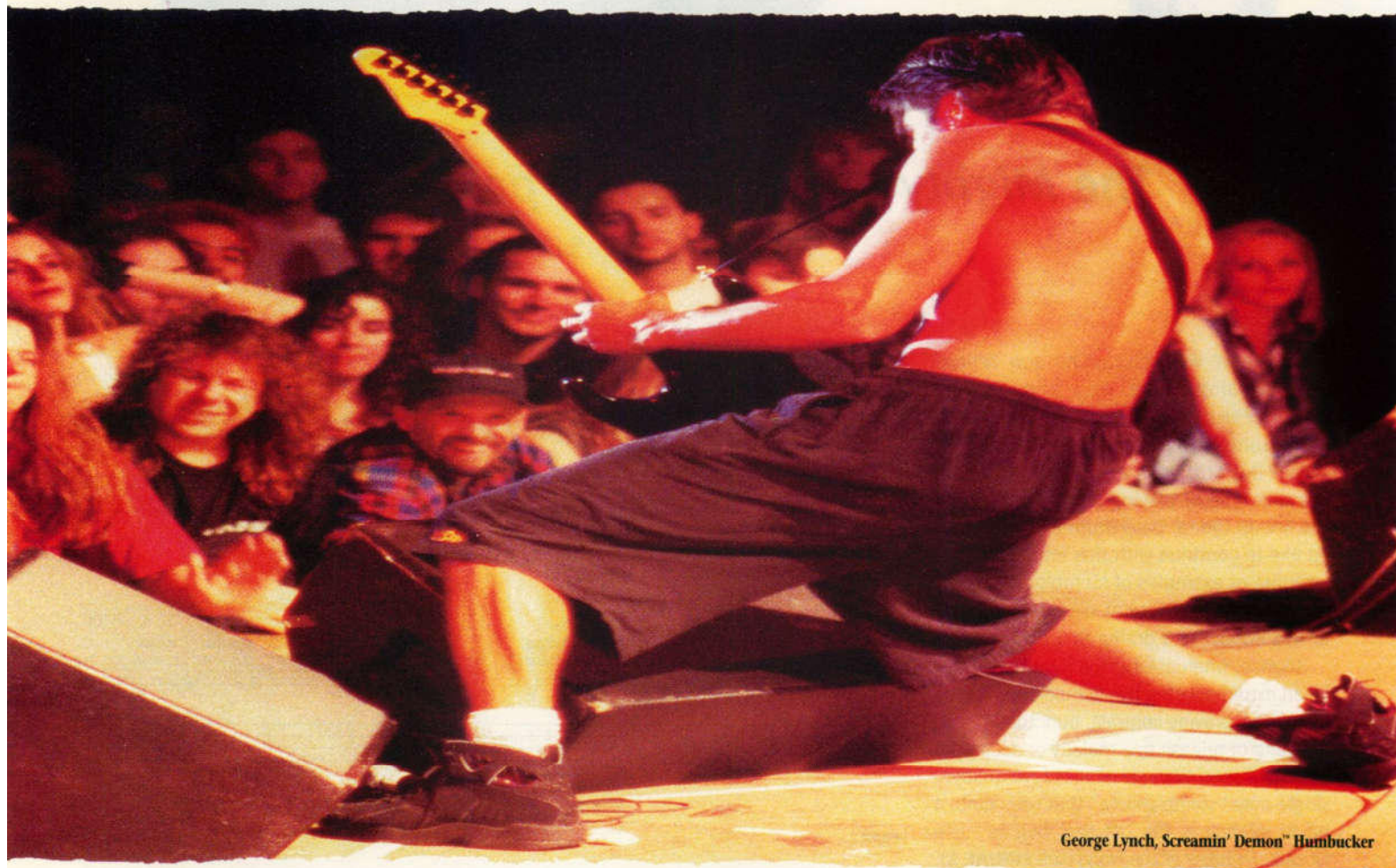
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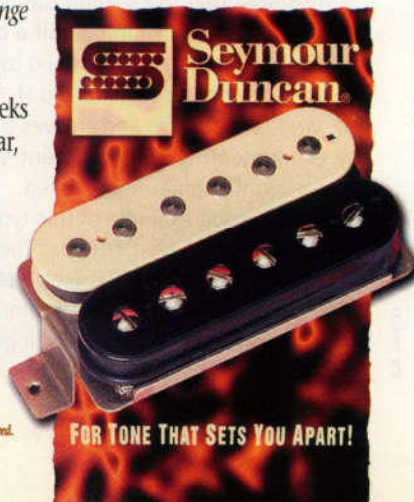
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STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN

PART I: RHYTHM

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN was, and still is, my greatest influence as a guitar player. Ever since the very first time I saw him perform I was deeply affected by his playing, and I'm still learning from him today. When I first began studying Stevie's playing I spent just as much time learning his rhythm guitar parts as I did his solos. For this month's column, I'd like to focus on Stevie's great rhythm guitar style and some of the techniques he liked to use.

One of the first things I worked on was the main rhythm part in "Pride and Joy" (*Texas Flood*), a 12-bar medium-tempo blues shuffle in E. **FIGURE 1A** illustrates the first four bars of a rhythm figure along the lines of "Pride and Joy." The figure begins with a "reverse rake," where you quickly drag the pick across the strings using an upstroke, sounding each string individually in quick succession. For this first reverse rake, allow the open top three strings to sound, but mute the open D (4th) and A (5th) strings by lightly resting your fret-hand fingers against these two strings. This muted reverse rake appears on the upbeat of beat 1 in each bar of this example: in bars 2 and 4, all of the strings are muted, so lay the fret-hand fingers across all of the strings.

This type of rhythm figure combines a typical boogie woogie, "Chuck Berry" kind of rhythm guitar part with "walking bass" figures. It must be strummed correctly to give it that *driving* sound we associate with Stevie Ray Vaughan's rhythm guitar style. This figure should be played with a very deliberate shuffle feel, which means that the second eighth note of each beat should be played as if it were the third note of an eighth-note triplet. Use a downstroke for each downbeat and an upstroke for each eighth-note upbeat.

In a few spots an eighth-note triplet figure is played in the place of two eighth notes. To strum the triplet figure correctly, use a "down-up-down" strumming sequence.

FIGURE 1B illustrates bars 5-8 of the progression, where a similar pattern is played for the IV chord, A. On beat 4 of bar 8 (bar 4 of this example), I play a little walk-up figure which sets up the change to the next chord, B7.

FIGURE 1

A) bars 1-4

♩ = 100

□ = downstroke V = upstroke

E(7)

strumming: V

B) bars 5-8

A(7)

single picking

C) bars 9-12

E(7)

B7

1/4

let ring... let ring... let ring...

A(7)

E(7)

B7

(E7)

E7

1/4

FIGURE 1C illustrates bars 9-12, which are the last four bars of the blues progression. In the first bar of this example, a normal B7 chord is played, but, on beat 2, I switch from a B bass note to an F# bass note. On beat 3, I switch back to the B bass note.

In the next bar, I play a single-note lick based on E minor-pentatonic through most of the bar. This is followed in the next bar with a "turnaround" figure based on octaves. In the last bar of this example I play a walk-up figure on beat 2 to set up the B7 chord on beat 3. On beat 4, I throw in an Eb7 "passing" chord to set up the return to E7 on the downbeat of the first bar of the next chorus. For emphasis, I like to slide into

both of these chords.

Stevie used a similar rhythmic feel for "Cold Shot," too. For my tune "Born with a Broken Heart" (*Ledbetter Heights*), I utilize a rhythm pattern in A that is similar in some ways to both "Pride and Joy" and "Cold Shot."

The rhythm figures shown here are by no means the only ways to play these types of rhythm patterns. There are literally *millions* of ways to play a rhythm part like this. If you dig this type of rhythm guitar playing, listen to Lightnin' Hopkins, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Jimmy Reed, and the Fabulous Thunderbirds with Jimmie Vaughan, to name but a few of the true blues shuffle masters. ●

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SO, YOU WANNA FORM A BAND? XII STUFF THAT SUCKS

LIKE I SAID last month, welcome to the club. C'mon in and set a spell! You'll like it here with us touring musicians—we're all either crazy, stupid or both. So let's see... You've been on tour and you've frozen and starved all over America—in fact, maybe you've even managed to starve and freeze in exotic foreign countries! By now you've probably been ripped off by club owners and promoters; your van has broken down in the middle of nowhere at 3AM; you've been stopped and searched by the cops; you've managed to lose seven different guitar tuners. Believe it or not though, these are "the good ol' days!" Someday you're going to look back and laugh (keep telling yourself that—it works, believe me) but for now, we have to get into some stuff that really sucks—namely, business.

SEE YOU IN HELL, MY FRIEND!

Believe me, I'm with you. The only business I want to concern myself with is the business of SOUND—making it, listening to it.... hooking 12 stomp boxes together just to see what it sounds like. You know, the cool stuff. More often than not, creative people aren't very practical, and vice-versa. This is why there's a long line of sharks waiting for fresh talent to come along. The industry will chew you up and spit you out and that's the way it's always been. You have to protect yourself and your music and you really have to keep on top of your business.

Once your band has become a solid "thing"—you write your own songs, you tour, you make a little money here and there and people dig you—you should start thinking about moving up to the next level. For example, you'll want to start thinking about what kind of deal you're going to set your sights on: whether you want to press your own CD or vinyl (and maybe start your own record company) or if you want to sign some kind of a deal with an independent company. Maybe you want to concentrate on getting a major label deal. Whichever path you choose, you have to start making business decisions.

TURNING LEGALESE

I know a couple of musicians that are right

FIGURE 1



on the brink—they're just getting into dealing with little labels and all of a sudden they're freaking out. They aren't sure about what they're signing and the labels are trying to get them to do things that they don't want to do. Project one, I tell them, numero uno—the most important thing to do—is GET A LAWYER. Entertainment lawyers don't come cheap, but there's really no way to avoid using their services. It takes some of the fun out of it, but if you learn to think of a record label as a bank (they lend you money to record and make videos, and they take a lot of vacations), and your band as a business (you have to work really hard all the time to sell your products and services), then the need for a lawyer becomes more obvious. You wouldn't want to bankrupt your business, right?

If you're going to move up to this new level that I'm talking about, you're going to start having to make decisions that could really screw you later on—that's where a good entertainment lawyer comes in. As well as helping you to make the right choices and to understand the music business better (make your lawyer explain everything in simple terms; it's what he or she gets paid for!), a good lawyer can actually help you shop your demo. As I said several columns back, labels don't generally listen to unsolicited tapes—a single demo tape in the hands of a well-connected lawyer could do more for your band than mailing out two hundred.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Don't automatically go with the first entertainment lawyer you find. Just because someone has a law degree and specializes in music doesn't automatically mean that they're going to be good for you. It's important to hook up

with one that has a good understanding of what you're trying to do and is hip to the type of music you play—meet with a few before you make your choice.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One of the first business-type things that you'll want to do is to do a title search of your band's name. Good names are getting harder and harder to come up with and it would be a shame if, having finally found one you really like, some other group ends up claiming and using it. You'd have to modify yours if you didn't want to just give up and find another. This happens all the time; have you heard of The English Beat, for example? The L.A. power pop band The Beat were around first, so the English band had to *change their* name. Other good examples are Wrathchild America, The Mission U.K. and Dinosaur Jr. Also, did you know that in Canada, Bush are called Bush X? It should go without saying that it's not a good idea to borrow a name that you know is a registered trademark—just ask Redd Kross and the Low and Sweet orchestra! I can't for the life of me figure out why the bug spray company never came after Black Flag. Lucky for them, I guess....

Anyway, we're out of space. More on trademarks, copyrights, business, the law and other things that suck next month.

I AM LEGEND

People sometimes ask me to show them how to play the clean intro passage to "I Am Legend" (side two, song one on *La Sexorcisto*). Over the next few columns that's what I'm going to do. It's mostly based around chords I stumbled onto while messing around; **FIGURE 1** is the first four bars. See you next issue. ●

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They **LAUGHED** when I said they could have **Perfect Pitch**

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It all started in ninth grade as a sort of teenage rivalry.

I'd slave at the piano for five hours daily. Linda practiced far less. But somehow she always had an edge that made her the star performer of our school. It was frustrating. *What does she have that I don't?* I'd wonder.

Linda's best friend Sheryl sensed my competition. One day she bragged on and on about Linda, adding more fuel to my fire.

"You could never be as good as Linda," she taunted me. "Linda's got Perfect Pitch."

"What's Perfect Pitch?" I asked.

Sheryl gloated over a few of Linda's uncanny abilities: how she could name any tone or chord—just by ear; how she could sing any pitch she wanted—from mere memory; how she could play songs after only listening to them on the radio!

My heart sank. *Her fantastic EAR is the key to her success* I thought. How could I ever hope to compete with her?

But later I doubted Sheryl's story. How could anyone possibly know F# or Bb just by listening? An ear like that would give them a mastery of the entire musical language!

It bothered me. Did she really have Perfect Pitch? I got up the nerve, approached Linda, and asked her point-blank if it were true.

"Yes," she nodded to me aloofly.

But Perfect Pitch was too good to believe. I rudely pressed, "Can I test you sometime?"

"OK," she replied cheerfully.

Now I'd make her eat her words...

My plan was ingeniously simple: I picked a moment when Linda least suspected. Then I boldly challenged her to name tones by ear.

I made sure she had not been playing any music. I made her stand so she could not see the piano keyboard. I made certain that other classmates could not help her. I set everything up perfectly so I could expose her Perfect Pitch claims as a ridiculous joke.

Nervously, I plotted my testing strategy. Linda appeared serene. Then, with silent apprehension, I selected a tone to play. (She'll never guess F#!)

I had barely touched the key. "F#," she said. I was astonished. I played another tone. She didn't even stop to think. *Instantly* she announced the correct pitch. Frantically I played more tones, skipping here and there all over the keyboard. But somehow she knew the pitch each time. She was *SO* amazing. She knew tones like colors!

"Sing an Eb," I demanded, determined to mess her up. She sang a tone. I checked her on the keyboard. She was right on! Now I was starting to boil. I called out more tones for her to sing, trying hard to make them increasingly difficult. Still she sang each note perfectly on pitch.

I was totally boggled. "How in the world do you do it?" I blurted.

"I don't know," she sighed. And to my dismay, that was all I could get out of her!

The dazzle of Perfect Pitch hit me like a ton of bricks. My head was dizzy with disbelief. Yet from that moment on I knew *Perfect Pitch is real*.

I couldn't figure it out...

"How does she DO it?" I kept asking myself. On the other hand, why can't everyone recognize tones by ear? It dawned on me that most musicians can't tell a simple C from a C#, or the key of A major from F major! I thought about that. A musician who cannot tell tones by ear?! That's like a painter who can't recognize the rainbow of colors on his palette! It seemed odd and contradictory.

I found myself more mystified than ever. Humiliated and puzzled, I went home to work on this problem. At age 14, this was a hard nut to crack.

You can be sure I tried it myself. I would sweet-talk my three brothers and two sisters into playing tones for me, which I would then try to identify by ear. My attempts were dismal failures, a mere guessing game.

So I tried playing the tones over and over in order to memorize them. I tried to feel the "highness" or "lowness" of each pitch. I tried day after day to learn and absorb those elusive tones. But nothing worked. After weeks of struggle, I still couldn't do it. So I finally gave up. Sure, Linda had an extraordinary gift: the ultimate ear for music, the master key to many talents. I wished I had an ear like that. But it was out of my reach.

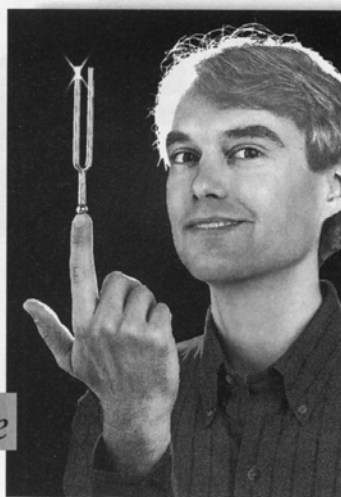
Then it happened...

It was like a miracle. A twist of fate. Like finding the lost Holy Grail. Once I had stopped *straining* my ear, I started to listen *NATURALLY*. Then the incredible secret to Perfect Pitch jumped right into my lap.

I began to notice faint "colors" within the tones. Not *visual* colors, but colors of *pitch*, colors of *sound*. They had always been there. But this was the first time I had ever "let go"—and *listened*—to discover these subtle differences within the musical tones.

Soon—to my own disbelief—I too could recognize the tones by ear! It was simple. I could hear how F# sounds one way, while Bb has a different sound—sort of like "hearing" red and blue. The realization struck me: THIS IS PERFECT PITCH! This is how Bach, Beethoven and Mozart could envision their masterpieces—and know tones, chords and keys all by ear—by *tuning in* to these subtle "pitch colors" within the tones.

It was almost childish—I felt sure that anyone could unlock their own Perfect Pitch



with this simple secret of "color hearing."

Bursting with excitement, I went and told my best friend Ann (a flutist) that she too could have Perfect Pitch. She *laughed* at me.

"You have to be born with Perfect Pitch," she asserted. "You can't develop it."

"You don't understand what Perfect Pitch is or how it works," I countered. "I couldn't recognize one note before. Now it's *easy*."

I showed her how to listen. Timidly, she confessed that she too could hear the pitch colors. With this jump start, it wasn't long before Ann had also acquired Perfect Pitch.

At school we became instant celebrities. Classmates would test our ears, endlessly fascinated with our "supernatural" powers. Yet to us, our hearing was nothing "super"—just "natural."

Way back then I never dreamed I would later cause a stir among college music professors. But when I got a little older, I eventually started to explain my discovery to the academic world.

They *laughed* at me. Many told me: "You must be born with Perfect Pitch; you can't develop it." I'd listen politely. Then I'd reveal the simple secret—so they could hear for themselves. You'd be surprised how fast they would change their tune!

As I continued with my own college studies, my "perfect ear" allowed me to progress far faster than I ever thought possible. I even *skipped* over two required courses. Perfect Pitch made *everything* easier—performing, composing, arranging, sight-reading, transposing, improvising—and it skyrocketed my enjoyment of music as well. I learned that music is definitely a HEARING art.

And as for Linda?

Oh yes—I'll backtrack. Time found me at the end of my senior year of high school. I was nearly 18. In these three and a half years with Perfect Pitch, my piano teacher insisted I had made ten years of progress. But I was not fully satisfied. I still needed to beat Linda. Now was my *final* chance.

Our local university sponsored a music festival each spring, complete with judges and awards. To my horror, they scheduled me as the last person to play—the *grand finale* of the entire event.

Linda gave her usual sterling performance. I knew she would be tough to match, let alone surpass. My turn came, and I went for it. Slinking to the stage, I sat down and played my heart out.

Guess what? I scored an A+ in the most advanced performance category. Linda only got an A. *Sweet victory was music to my ears—mine at last!*

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AN INTRODUCTION TO SHIFTING POSITIONS

I OFTEN GET asked how I get my solos to sound the way they do, as if there were some sort of trick involved. I don't think I ever consciously sat down and worked out a specific "technique"—my sound came about using nothing but old-fashioned trial and error. I wish I could give you a quick and easy way to develop your sound, but unfortunately, there is none. The secret to a great sound is simply hard work.

I always want to squeeze the optimum tone out of each note. Guitarists often say that your sound comes from your technique, your guitar or your rig. That's true to a certain degree, but in my opinion, the finger you fret with and the string you use will also drastically affect your tone. I like all the notes in my lines to have a certain cohesiveness of texture. To that extent, I constantly work out my fingerings, using any and all permutations I can to play my lines. If necessary, I will skip around the strings in order for a passage to maintain tonal consistency; that's why I might make some fingering choices that seem odd, illogical or simply more difficult to the average guitarist.

I always sacrifice ease of execution for better tone. For example, on "Camel's Night Out" (*Venus Isle*), which we'll cover next month, I played the same solo using eight different fingerings until I got the tone I wanted. You can imagine how long that must have taken!

When I improvise, I'm not married to any one particular chord "grip" or scale position. I feel that relying on one specific fingering pattern or "box" really limits you to just the notes and phrasing inherent to that particular pattern. You should learn how the individual notes sound within the scale or phrase, be able to find them anywhere on the neck when you hear them, and play them using whatever fingering it takes. If you're in the middle of a solo and you have to stop and think, "What position do I shift to?" "What note should I land on?" or "Where do I go from here?", it's going to hurt the spontaneity of your solo. You have to hear what you're going to be playing next a split second ahead of time and adapt your fingers to it.

FIGURE 1

A minor-pentatonic box patterns (● = A root)



FIGURE 2

A minor-pentatonic scale (● = A root)

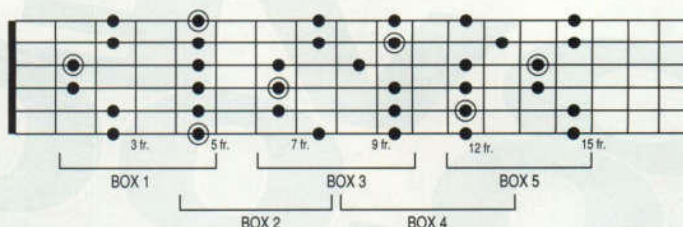


FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4



I rely a lot on the pentatonic scale for my soloing ideas, but I use the five pentatonic "box patterns" (FIGURE 1) only as a taking-off point. The whole trick is not to favor one box over another, but to see the adjacent patterns as one interconnecting scale that runs along the length of the fingerboard, as depicted in FIGURE 2. I use a "horizontal" approach to playing pentatonic ideas—I use certain fingers as "pivots" to shift positions as I move from box to box.

FIGURE 3 is an exercise to help get you started shifting pentatonic ideas. Notice that after playing a four-note lick on the D and G strings, I immediately shift to the next box pattern using either my index or ring finger

(refer to the tablature for the left-hand fingering). As you can see, shifting positions in this manner enables you to cover a lot of ground on the neck very quickly.

Once you get FIGURE 3 under your fingers, try coming up with similar patterns and play them on other groups of strings. Then work on combining them, as I did in FIGURE 4. Again, refer to the left-hand fingering for the "pivots" when shifting positions.

Eventually, this approach should free you from playing strictly in one or two box patterns and really open up the melodic potential of this versatile scale. Next month, we'll see how I applied this approach to some of my recorded solos. See you then! ●



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hero of the day

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JAMES HETFIELD,
LARS ULRICH AND KIRK HAMMETT
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METALLICA

* Tune down 1/2 step (low to high: E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭ B♭ E♭)

A Intro

Moderate Rock ♩ = 120

1 Rhy. Fig.1 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E end Rhy. Fig.1

Gtr.1 (slightly dirty) let ring throughout

TAB

2 0 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 5 2 2 7 6 4 6 7 6 7 4 6 (6) 0 2

* All pitches sound 1/2 step lower than written (key of A♭).

5 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Mama they try and break me

TAB

0 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 2 5 2 2 4 6 4 6 4 6 4 6 7 6 7 4 4 6 4 6 6 7

B 1st Verse

* Half-time Feel ♩ = 60

9 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E end Rhy. Fig.1A

The window burns to light the way back home

Gtr.2 (acous.)

TAB

2 4 6 7 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 0 2 2

* Half-time feel dictated by drums

13 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

A light that warms no matter where they've gone

Gtr.2 plays Rhy. Fig.1A

Gtr.1

TAB

0 2 2 2 2 2 4 2 2 5 2 2 4 6 4 6 4 7 6 6 4 6 7 4 6 6 4 6

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hero of the day METALLICA

Original Feel ♩ = 120

17 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E end Rhy. Fig.2

Gtr.2 plays Rhy. Fig.2A
Rhy. Fig.2

Gtr.1 (w/dist.)

21 Mm but what if they should fall by someone's wicked way Still the

A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E Rhy. Fill 1

Gtr.1

Rhy. Fill 2

Gtr.3 (elec. w/dist.)

25 window burns Time so slowly turns Someone there is sighing Keepers
of the flames do ya feel your name Can't you hear your babies cryin'

A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Rhy. Fig.3

Gtr.1

Rhy. Fig.3A

Gtr.3

end Rhy. Fig.3

end Rhy. Fig.3A

Rhy. Fig.2A

Gtr.2 (acous.)

TAB

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Mama they try and break me

29 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fill 3

Gtr.1 (slightly dirty) let ring throughout

Fretboard diagram for measures 29-32:

0 2 2 2 2	4 2 2 2 2	7 6 4 6 7 4 6	7 4 6 (6) 0 2
-----------	-----------	---------------	---------------

Still they try and break me

33 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Fretboard diagram for measures 33-36:

0 2 2 2 2	4 2 2 2 2	7 6 4 6 7 4 6	7 4 6 (6) 7 4 6
-----------	-----------	---------------	-----------------

C 2nd Verse

Half-time Feel $\text{♩} = 60$

Excuse me while I tend to how I feel

37 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fig.1

Gtr.2 (acous.)

Gtr.4 (elec. w/dist. and delay)

Fretboard diagram for measures 37-40:

X X 6 7 7	X 9 9 11 11 11 13	13 9 9 9	5 7 5 4 5 4 5
X X 4 5 5	X 7 7 9 9 9 11	11 7 7 7	X 9 9 6 7
			X 7 7 4 5

These things return to me that still seem real

41 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Gtr.1 plays first 3 bars of Rhy. Fig.1

Gtr.4

Fretboard diagram for measures 41-44:

5 X X 6 7 7 7	X 9 9 11 11 11 13	13	5 7 5 4 5
X X 4 5 5 5	X 7 7 9 9 9 11	11	

Rhy. Fill 3

Rhy. Fill 4

Gtr.3

Gtr.1 (w/dist.)

1/2

Fretboard diagram for Rhythmic Fills:

TAB 2 0	TAB 7 4 4 6 6 6 6 6 (6) 4
---------	---------------------------

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Don't

Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fill 1 second time

No I'm

Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fig.3A

feel

Gtr.3 plays first three meas. of Rhy. Fig.3A

Gtr.3 plays Fill 4A
Rhy. Fill 4 _____

D 1st Chorus

(But now the

Rhy. Fig.4

end Rhy. Fig.4 Rhy. Fig.4A

end Rhy. Fig.4A

* muted strums (indicated by x's in parentheses) played by Gtr.1 only.

Rhy. Fill 4A

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So build the wall behind

it crawl and hide
So build the wall and hide

F#5
Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fig.4A 3 1/2 times

So can you hear your babies

cryin' now

F#5

A5

A5/B

A5/C#

A5/D

E

Gtr.1 plays Riff A twice
Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fig.2 twice
Riff B

Gtr.4 (w/wah)

A5

A5/B

A5/C#

A5/D

817

Gtr.1 (w/wah)

T	6	7	9	9 $\rightarrow$ 11	11	11 $\rightarrow$ 13	13	13	13	13	(13)
A											
B	4	5	7	7 $\rightarrow$ 9	9	9 $\rightarrow$ 11	11	11	11	11	(11)

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F#5

N.C.

F#5

Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fig.5

Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fig.5

93

Gtr.6 (slightly dirty)

H Outro

F#5

F#5/G#

F#5/A

F#5/B

97

Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fig.5 twice

Rhy. Fig.6

[illegible]

let ring throughout

2

F#5

E/G#

Asus2

B5

101

Gtrs.1 and 3 play Rhy. Fig.4B

Riff C

end Riff C

Gtr.5

end Rhy. Fig.6

Gtr.6

2

Rhy. Fig.4B

Gtrs. 1 and 3

T
A
B

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F#5

Gtrs.1 and 3 play Rhy. Fig.4B
Gtr.4 plays Riff B 7 times
Gtr.5 plays Riff C twice

105

Gtr.6 let ring throughout

F#5

Gtrs. 1 and 3 play Rhy. Fig. 4B

109

Gtr.5

B5

N.C.

F#5

Gtr.4

* Gtr.5 part represented by cue-size notes.

* Vibrato applies to Gtr.4 only

Gtrs. 1, 3 and 6

Gtr.6 let ring _____

hero of the day

bassline

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METALLICA

* Tune down 1/2 step (low to high: E $\flat$ A $\flat$ D $\flat$ G $\flat$)

A Intro

Moderate Rock $\text{♩} = 120$

Mama...

Elec. Fretless Bass

* All pitches sound 1/2 step lower than written (key of A $\flat$).

B 1st Verse

* Half-time Feel $\text{♩} = 60$

The window burns...

A5 A5/B A5/C $\sharp$ A5/D E

* Half-time feel dictated by drums

A5 A5/B A5/C $\sharp$ A5/D E

Original Feel $\text{♩} = 120$

A5 A5/B A5/C $\sharp$ A5/D E

A5 A5/B A5/C $\sharp$ A5/D E

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hero of the day METALLICA

C 2nd Verse (see meas. 37 in the gtr. trans.)

Half-time Feel ♩ = 60

Excuse me...

29 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

Original Feel ♩ = 120

33 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E (play 4 times)

D 1st Chorus (see meas. 57 in the gtr. trans.)

But

37 F#5 N.C.

now...

39 F#5 N.C. (play 4 times)

41 F#5 N.C.

E Guitar Solo (see meas. 69 in the gtr. trans.)

(2nd time) Still the

43 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

F 3rd Verse (see meas. 77 in the gtr. trans.)

window burns...

(2nd time) But

47 A5 A5/B A5/C# A5/D E

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now the dreams...

N.C.

[illegible]

F#5

N.C.

(play 5 times)

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains the first two measures of the melody, which end with a repeat sign. The second system contains the next two measures, which conclude the piece with a final double bar line. The melody is written in a single staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second system continues with: C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half), and C3 (half). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-3 under the notes. The piece concludes with a repeat sign at the end of the second measure of the second system.

Mama they try...

F#5/G#

The first system of the musical score is written on a single five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of two measures. The first measure contains eight eighth notes, and the second measure contains eight eighth notes. Below the staff, there are two rows of fingerings: the first row has 16 '2' fingers, and the second row has 16 '4' fingers, corresponding to the 16 eighth notes in the melody.

F#5/B

F#5/C#

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

E/G#

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" in G major, 2/4 time. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4. The music consists of two measures. The first measure contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The second measure continues the melody and accompaniment. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

B5

(play 3 times)

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody consists of eighth notes. The first staff shows the first 16 measures, and the second staff shows the next 16 measures, ending with a repeat sign.

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 |

F#5

Musical notation for the bass line of 'The Rose Tree'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of the following notes: G2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (half), D3 (half), E3 (half), F#3 (half), G3 (half), A3 (half), B3 (half), C4 (half), D4 (half), E4 (half), F#4 (half), G4 (half), A4 (half), B4 (half), C5 (half), D5 (half), E5 (half), F#5 (half), G5 (half), A5 (half), B5 (half), C6 (half), D6 (half), E6 (half), F#6 (half), G6 (half), A6 (half), B6 (half), C7 (half), D7 (half), E7 (half), F#7 (half), G7 (half), A7 (half), B7 (half), C8 (half), D8 (half), E8 (half), F#8 (half), G8 (half), A8 (half), B8 (half), C9 (half), D9 (half), E9 (half), F#9 (half), G9 (half), A9 (half), B9 (half), C10 (half), D10 (half), E10 (half), F#10 (half), G10 (half), A10 (half), B10 (half), C11 (half), D11 (half), E11 (half), F#11 (half), G11 (half), A11 (half), B11 (half), C12 (half), D12 (half), E12 (half), F#12 (half), G12 (half), A12 (half), B12 (half), C13 (half), D13 (half), E13 (half), F#13 (half), G13 (half), A13 (half), B13 (half), C14 (half), D14 (half), E14 (half), F#14 (half), G14 (half), A14 (half), B14 (half), C15 (half), D15 (half), E15 (half), F#15 (half), G15 (half), A15 (half), B15 (half), C16 (half), D16 (half), E16 (half), F#16 (half), G16 (half), A16 (half), B16 (half), C17 (half), D17 (half), E17 (half), F#17 (half), G17 (half), A17 (half), B17 (half), C18 (half), D18 (half), E18 (half), F#18 (half), G18 (half), A18 (half), B18 (half), C19 (half), D19 (half), E19 (half), F#19 (half), G19 (half), A19 (half), B19 (half), C20 (half), D20 (half), E20 (half), F#20 (half), G20 (half), A20 (half), B20 (half), C21 (half), D21 (half), E21 (half), F#21 (half), G21 (half), A21 (half), B21 (half), C22 (half), D22 (half), E22 (half), F#22 (half), G22 (half), A22 (half), B22 (half), C23 (half), D23 (half), E23 (half), F#23 (half), G23 (half), A23 (half), B23 (half), C24 (half), D24 (half), E24 (half), F#24 (half), G24 (half), A24 (half), B24 (half), C25 (half), D25 (half), E25 (half), F#25 (half), G25 (half), A25 (half), B25 (half), C26 (half), D26 (half), E26 (half), F#26 (half), G26 (half), A26 (half), B26 (half), C27 (half), D27 (half), E27 (half), F#27 (half), G27 (half), A27 (half), B27 (half), C28 (half), D28 (half), E28 (half), F#28 (half), G28 (half), A28 (half), B28 (half), C29 (half), D29 (half), E29 (half), F#29 (half), G29 (half), A29 (half), B29 (half), C30 (half), D30 (half), E30 (half), F#30 (half), G30 (half), A30 (half), B30 (half), C31 (half), D31 (half), E31 (half), F#31 (half), G31 (half), A31 (half), B31 (half), C32 (half), D32 (half), E32 (half), F#32 (half), G32 (half), A32 (half), B32 (half), C33 (half), D33 (half), E33 (half), F#33 (half), G33 (half), A33 (half), B33 (half), C34 (half), D34 (half), E34 (half), F#34 (half), G34 (half), A34 (half), B34 (half), C35 (half), D35 (half), E35 (half), F#35 (half), G35 (half), A35 (half), B35 (half), C36 (half), D36 (half), E36 (half), F#36 (half), G36 (half), A36 (half), B36 (half), C37 (half), D37 (half), E37 (half), F#37 (half), G37 (half), A37 (half), B37 (half), C38 (half), D38 (half), E38 (half), F#38 (half), G38 (half), A38 (half), B38 (half), C39 (half), D39 (half), E39 (half), F#39 (half), G39 (half), A39 (half), B39 (half), C40 (half), D40 (half), E40 (half), F#40 (half), G40 (half), A40 (half), B40 (half), C41 (half), D41 (half), E41 (half), F#41 (half), G41 (half), A41 (half), B41 (half), C42 (half), D42 (half), E42 (half), F#42 (half), G42 (half), A42 (half), B42 (half), C43 (half), D43 (half), E43 (half), F#43 (half), G43 (half), A43 (half), B43 (half), C44 (half), D44 (half), E44 (half), F#44 (half), G44 (half), A44 (half), B44 (half), C45 (half), D45 (half), E45 (half), F#45 (half), G45 (half), A45 (half), B45 (half), C46 (half), D46 (half), E46 (half), F#46 (half), G46 (half), A46 (half), B46 (half), C47 (half), D47 (half), E47 (half), F#47 (half), G47 (half), A47 (half), B47 (half), C48 (half), D48 (half), E48 (half), F#48 (half), G48 (half), A48 (half), B48 (half), C49 (half), D49 (half), E49 (half), F#49 (half), G49 (half), A49 (half), B49 (half), C50 (half), D50 (half), E50 (half), F#50 (half), G50 (half), A50 (half), B50 (half), C51 (half), D51 (half), E51 (half), F#51 (half), G51 (half), A51 (half), B51 (half), C52 (half), D52 (half), E52 (half), F#52 (half), G52 (half), A52 (half), B52 (half), C53 (half), D53 (half), E53 (half), F#53 (half), G53 (half), A53 (half), B53 (half), C54 (half), D54 (half), E54 (half), F#54 (half), G54 (half), A54 (half), B54 (half), C55 (half), D55 (half), E55 (half), F#55 (half), G55 (half), A55 (half), B55 (half), C56 (half), D56 (half), E56 (half), F#56 (half), G56 (half), A56 (half), B56 (half), C57 (half), D57 (half), E57 (half), F#57 (half), G57 (half), A57 (half), B57 (half), C58 (half), D58 (half), E58 (half), F#58 (half), G58 (half), A58 (half), B58 (half), C59 (half), D59 (half), E59 (half), F#59 (half), G59 (half), A59 (half), B59 (half), C60 (half), D60 (half), E60 (half), F#60 (half), G60 (half), A60 (half), B60 (half), C61 (half), D61 (half), E61 (half), F#61 (half), G61 (half), A61 (half), B61 (half), C62 (half), D62 (half), E62 (half), F#62 (half), G62 (half), A62 (half), B62 (half), C63 (half), D63 (half), E63 (half), F#63 (half), G63 (half), A63 (half), B63 (half), C64 (half), D64 (half), E64 (half), F#64 (half), G64 (half), A64 (half), B64 (half), C65 (half), D65 (half), E65 (half), F#65 (half), G65 (half), A65 (half), B65 (half), C66 (half), D66 (half), E66 (half), F#66 (half), G66 (half), A66 (half), B66 (half), C67 (half), D67 (half), E67 (half), F#67 (half), G67 (half), A67 (half), B67 (half), C68 (half), D68 (half), E68 (half), F#68 (half), G68 (half), A68 (half), B68 (half), C69 (half), D69 (half), E69 (half), F#69 (half), G69 (half), A69 (half), B69 (half), C70 (half), D70 (half), E70 (half), F#70 (half), G70 (half), A70 (half), B70 (half), C71 (half), D71 (half), E71 (half), F#71 (half), G71 (half), A71 (half), B71 (half), C72 (half), D72 (half), E72 (half), F#72 (half), G72 (half), A72 (half), B72 (half), C73 (half), D73 (half), E73 (half), F#73 (half), G73 (half), A73 (half), B73 (half), C74 (half), D74 (half), E74 (half), F#74 (half), G74 (half), A74 (half), B74 (half), C75 (half), D75 (half), E75 (half), F#75 (half), G75 (half), A75 (half), B75 (half), C76 (half), D76 (half), E76 (half), F#76 (half), G76 (half), A76 (half), B76 (half), C77 (half), D77 (half), E77 (half), F#77 (half), G77 (half), A77 (half), B77 (half), C78 (half), D78 (half), E78 (half), F#78 (half), G78 (half), A78 (half), B78 (half), C79 (half), D79 (half), E79 (half), F#79 (half), G79 (half), A79 (half), B79 (half), C80 (half), D80 (half), E80 (half), F#80 (half), G80 (half), A80 (half), B80 (half), C81 (half), D81 (half), E81 (half), F#81 (half), G81 (half), A81 (half), B81 (half), C82 (half), D82 (half), E82 (half), F#82 (half), G82 (half), A82 (half), B82 (half), C83 (half), D83 (half), E83 (half), F#83 (half), G83 (half), A83 (half), B83 (half), C84 (half), D84 (half), E84 (half), F#84 (half), G84 (half), A84 (half), B84 (half), C85 (half), D85 (half), E85 (half), F#85 (half), G85 (half), A85 (half), B85 (half), C86 (half), D86 (half), E86 (half), F#86 (half), G86 (half), A86 (half), B86 (half), C87 (half), D87 (half), E87 (half), F#87 (half), G87 (half), A87 (half), B87 (half), C88 (half), D88 (half), E88 (half), F#88 (half), G88 (half), A88 (half), B88 (half), C89 (half), D89 (half), E89 (half), F#89 (half), G89 (half), A89 (half), B89 (half), C90 (half), D90 (half), E90 (half), F#90 (half), G90 (half), A90 (half), B90 (half), C91 (half), D91 (half), E91 (half), F#91 (half), G91 (half), A91 (half), B91 (half), C92 (half), D92 (half), E92 (half), F#92 (half), G92 (half), A92 (half), B92 (half), C93 (half), D93 (half), E93 (half), F#93 (half), G93 (half), A93 (half), B93 (half), C94 (half), D94 (half), E94 (half), F#94 (half), G94 (half), A94 (half), B94 (half), C95 (half), D95 (half), E95 (half), F#95 (half), G95 (half), A95 (half), B95 (half), C96 (half), D96 (half), E96 (half), F#96 (half), G96 (half), A96 (half), B96 (half), C97 (half), D97 (half), E97 (half), F#97 (half), G

TOOL

TRANSCRIBED BY JEFF PERRIN

A Intro

N.C.

1

Gtr. 1
(dist. elec.) *mf*

* w/ E.Q. effects

TAB

21 21

1 / 2 (2) 21 (2) 21 21 (2) 21 21 21 1 / 2 21 (2) 21 (2) (2) 21 (2) 21 21 21

* Meas. 1-7: all notes sounded using two-hand tapping.

3

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2 (w/dist.)

* vol. swell

1/4 1/2

21 21 21 21 21 21 5 (5) (5) (5)

* w/random harmonic and microphonic fdbk.

8

N.C.

Gtr. 2 *f*

1/2 full full

2 5 2 (2) 5 2 2 5 2 (2) 5 2 5 2 (2) 5

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B 1st & 2nd Verses

Something has to change undeniable dilemma
I can help you change tired moments into pleasure

11

Play Rhy. Fill 1 second time

Play Rhy. Fill 2 second time
Rhy. Fig. 1

Boredom's not a burden anyone should bear
Say the word and we'll be well upon our way

Constant Blend and over-balance

14

end Rhy. Fig. 1 Play Rhy. Fig. 1 second time

and ring. Fig. 1 Play ring. Fig. 1 second time

P.M.

2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 5 2 2 5 2 2 (2) 2 5

Stimulation numbs me But I would not want you any other way
pain and comfort Deep within you till you will not want me any other way

**Just
But**

17

Play Rhy. Fill 3 second time

Play Rny. Flm 3 second time

Gtrs. 2 and 3

P.M.

2 2 (2) 2 5 2 2 (2) 2 5 2 2 (2) 2 5 2 2 (2) 2 5 2 5 2 5 2

Rhy. Fill 1

Rhy. Fill 2

(play 3 times)

(play 5 times)

Gtr. 2

full

full

P.M.

light P.M.

TAB

2 2 5 2 (2) 2

TAB

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 5

Rhy. Fill 3

Rhy. Fill 4

Ag (no 3)

Cs1152

[illegible]

Turn down volume

C 1st and 2nd Pre-choruses

not enough I need more Nothing seems to satisfy again I don't want it I just need it to breathe to feel to know I'm a-

20 E5 G E5 G E5 D5 E5 G E5 G E5 D5 E5 G E5 D5

Gtrs. 2 and 3 *f*



D Chorus

Gradually Increase Tempo ♩ = 90

(1.) live (2.) live (3.) Elbow deep inside the borderline Finger deep within the borderline Knuckle deep inside the borderline Show me that you love me and that we belong together

24 E5 C5 D5 E5 F5 E5 C5 D5 E5 F5

(3rd time) To Coda ⊕

Show me that you love me and that we belong together Relax turn around and take my hand This may hurt a little but it's something you'll get used to Relax slip away Soulder deep within the borderline

26 E5 C5 D5 E5 F5 E5 C5 D5 N.C. H

fret noise let ring H 1/4

E Interlude

Gradually Decrease Tempo ♩ = 86

29 A5 A5/F G5 G6 G5 N.C.

Gtr. 2 let ring 1/2 1/4 harmonic fdbk

pitch: D#

33

harmonic fdbk. (random microphonic fdbk.)

3

(bass and drums)

Ah

* pick scrape

pitch: C

* While muting strings w/l.h., rapidly rub pick against strings ② and ③ between pickups.

39

1. E5 N.C. 2.

microphonic fdbk.

Relax relax relax relax

w/microphonic fdbk.

pitch: D

45

Ah

47

P.M. light P.M. *P.H. *P.H.

(0)

* Right hand "pinches" harmonics while moving down the string.

49 E5 F#5 E5 D5 E5 F#5 E5 D5 D6 D5 D6 D5

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 2

1. D6 D5 D6 N.C. 2. D6 D5 D6 D5 D6 D5 D6 D5 D6 D5

52

F Bridge

Something kinda sad about

the way that things have come to be Desensitized to everything

Csus2 Dsus2

Bsus2 D5

E5

C5 Csus2

Dsus2

Bsus2 D5

55

Gtr. 1

How can this mean anything to me

58 E5 C5 Csus2 Dsus2 Dsus2 Bsus2 A7sus4 A9 (no 3) Gtr.3 plays Rhy. Fill 4 Asus2 Csus2

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 / 10 12 12 12 / 14 14 14 14 11 0 0 0 0 9 / 12 7 / 10 7 / 10

* Turn down volume

* Turn down volume

[illegible]

- Turn up volume

G 3rd Pre-chorus

I'll keep digging till

64 E5/B G G5/D A5/E F#C# D5

D.S. $\frac{5}{8}$ al Coda

I feel something

66 E5/B G5 G5/D A5/E F#/C# D5

⊕ *Coda*

Gradually Decrease Tempo ♩ = 86

Fade Out

Relax Turn around and take my hand

[illegible]

pitch: D

A

F

WORDS AND MUSIC BY TOOL
TRANSCRIBED BY JEFF PERRIN

TOOL

"Dropped D" tuning (low to high: D A D G)

A Intro

Moderate Rock ♩ = 88



1 6 N.C.

B Verses

Something has to...
I can help...

10 (play 4 times)

C Pre-chorus

Just not enough...
(2nd time) (But)

13 (play 3 times)

16 E5 D5 E5 G E5 G E5 D5 E5 G E5 D5



D Chorus

1. Linger dealing in...
2. You'll go deep...

19 E5 C5 D5 E5 F5 E5 C5 D5 E5 F5

As heard on Tool's Zoo recording *Ænima*

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(3rd time) *To Coda II* $\oplus^2$ D.S. S^1 *al Coda I* $\oplus^1$
(2nd time) *To Coda I* $\oplus$

[illegible]

$\oplus^1$ Coda I

24 A5 A5/F G5 G6 G5 N.C.

5 3 0 3 3 3 0 3 3 3 0 3

[illegible]

$\overline{1., 2.}$

29

0 3 0 3 5 0 5 7 0 3 0 3 5 0 5 7 0 3 3 3 0 3 3 3 0 3

31

0 3 3 3 3 0 3 3 3 3 0 2 2 5 0 5 0 3 5 0 5 0 5 7

33

E5 F#5 E5 D5 E5 F#5 E5 D5

0 2 2 5 0 5 7 0 3 5 0 5 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0

[E] Bridge (see meas. 55 in the gr. trans.)

Something kinda sad...

36 D6 D5 D6 D5 D6 D5 D6 N.C. Csus2 Dsus2 Bsus2 D5 E5

(0) (0) Notes in parentheses played 1st time only

40 Csus2 Dsus2 Bsus2 D5 A9 (no 3) Asus2 Csus2 Dsus2 Bsus2

[F] Pre-chorus

43 A9 (no 3) Csus2 Dsus2 Bsus2 E5/B

D.S. ² al Coda II ²

46 G5/D A5/E F#/C# E5/B G G5/D A5/E F#/C#

² Coda II

49 D5

53

swallowed

BUSH

WORDS AND MUSIC BY GAVIN ROSSDALE
TRANSCRIBED BY JEFF PERRIN

A 1st Verse
Moderate Rock ♩ = 90

Warm sun feed me up when I'm weary loaded up
Ab Db5 N.C.(C5) F5 Ab Db5 N.C.(C5) F5
Gtr.1 (elec. w/dist.)

1

let ring -----

let ring -----

let ring -----

let ring ----- 1/4

Loathing for a change and I slip some boil away
Ab5 Db5 N.C.(C5) F5 Ab5 Db5 N.C.(C5) F5

5

let ring -----

let ring -----

Gtr.1
let ring -

B Chorus

Swallowed

1., 3. followed
2. sorrowed
4. hollowed
5. Oh no

heavy about e-
I'm with e-
sharp about e-
I'm with e-

9

Ab hold bend C5 hold bend Db Gtr.1 plays Fill 1 (1st time on D.S.)

Gtr.2 (elec. w/dist.)
(w/slight wah effect) full

let ring -----

Rhy. Fig. 1

Gtr.1

As heard on Bush's Trauma/Interscope recording *Razorblade Suitcase*

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B U S H

but my love
and yet not
but yourself
and yet not

(2nd time) *To Coda* 
and yet

Ab

A65

C5

12

(play 3 times on D.S.)

Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fill 1 second time
hold bend -----

hold hand

hold hand

bold bond

end Rhy. Fig.1

Just wanted to be myself

Ab

N.C.(Db)

(C5)

(F5)

(Ab5)

(D65)

(C5)

(F5)

(Ab5)

15

③ 1 fr.

(Gtr 2 out)

Gtr.1

Fill 1

Gtr.2

**T
A
B**

Rhy. Fill 1

Ab

C

C5

Gtr. 1

**T
A
B**

swallowed BUSH

Hey you said you would love to try some Hey you said you would love to die some

(D♭5) (C5) (F5) A♭ (D♭5) * (C5) (F5)

19

Gtrs. 1 and 2

* chords implied by bass

23

In the middle of a world on a fish hook You're the wave you're the wave you're the wave

A♭ D♭5 N.C.(C5) (F5) A♭ D♭5 N.C.(C5) (F5)

* Notes in parentheses played by Gtr. 2 only

* played slightly "ahead" of beat

D.S. Coda $\oplus$ al Coda $\oplus$

27

N.C.

hold bend. hold bend.

* Gtr. 1 w/slight wah effect

* Gtr. 1 doubled

29

A♭ E C5 A♭5 E

Rhy. Fig. 2

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

let ring

32

C5 B A♭ C5 C C5 D

open open open open open open open

let ring

full full full full full full full full

swallowed BUSH

end Rhy. Fig.2

Ab C5 E N.H. Ab
(5) 7 fr.

hold bend hold bend

full full

9 9 9 9 11 10 8 8 8 8 13 5 13 13 13 17 17 0 0 15

D 3rd Verse

Piss on self-esteem Forward
Ab5 Db C5 F5 Ab Db5

39

Gtr.2

full

7 (7)

Gtr.1

6 6 0 6 6 6 10 8 10 10 0 5 6 6 6 6 (0) 6 8

busted knee Sick head blackened lungs and I'm
C5 F5 Ab5 Db5 C5 N.C.(F5)

42

let ring let ring

10 10 X 10 10 10 X (X) 6 (6) 0 6 6 6 0 0 (0) 10 10 0

swallowed BUSH

[E] Chorus

simple

selfish

son

Swallowed
Swallowed

Ab5

Db5

N.C.(C5)

F5

Ab

Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fig.1 simile
hold bend

45

followed
Oh no

Heavy about everything
I'm with everyone

but my love
and yet not

C5

Db5

Bb

48

I'm with everyone

and yet not

I'm with everyone

Ab

C5

Ab5

51

and yet not

Got to get away from here

C5

Ab

C5

54

from here

Got to get away from here
Got to get away from here

Got to get away

I miss the one

Ab

C5

Ab

57

swallowed BUSH

that I love a lot I miss the one

60

Ab hold bend hold bend

full full

that I love a lot I miss the one that I love a lot

62

C5 Ab N.H. (15ma) C5 8va

N.H.

pitch: B

I loved

Db Bb C

65

8va

full 1 1/2

16 (16) (16)

Gtr. 1 let ring

let ring

69

Ab5

1/4 P.H.

swallowed

baseline

WORDS AND MUSIC BY GAVIN ROSSDALE
TRANSCRIBED BY JEFF PERRIN

BUSH

A 1st Verse

B Chorus

To Coda II $\oplus^2$

Moderate Rock $\text{♩} = 90$

1 8 Ab C5 Db5 Bb (play 3 times on 1st D.S.)

Elec. Bass (w/pick)

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 13 6 6 6 6 6 6 (6)

To Coda I $\oplus^1$ C 2nd Verse

D.S. $\text{al Coda I} \oplus^1$

13 Ab Ab5 C5 Ab Db C F (play 6 times)

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 4 4 4 4 X 6-8 8 8 X 8 8 8 (1) (4)

** Notes in parentheses tacet on 6th repeat.

Coda I

17 2 Ab C5 C5

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

D 3rd Verse

22 Ab C5 (Ab) 2

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 4

D.S. $\text{al Coda II} \oplus^2$

28 Ab5 Db5 C F5 Ab5 Db5 C (F5) Ab5 Db5 C F

11 11 11 11 15 17 14 $\frac{1}{2}$

4 4 X 4 4 4 X 6-8 8 8 X 8 8 8 4 4 X 4 8 0 1

Coda II

34 Ab C5 (play 8 times) Ab5 (play 3 times and fade out)

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 (8) 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

** Note in parentheses tacet on 3rd repeat

As heard on Bush's Trauma/Interscope recording *Razorblade Suitcase*

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you really got me

WORDS AND MUSIC BY RAY DAVIES

TRANSCRIBED BY ANDY ALEDORT

VAN HALEN

• Tune down 1/2 step: (low to high: E $\flat$ A $\flat$ D $\flat$ G $\flat$ B $\flat$ E $\flat$)

A Intro

Moderate Rock $\text{♩} = 140$

A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G)

1 (play 3 times)

TAB

* All pitches sound 1/2 step lower than written (key of A $\flat$).

A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C.

4

B 1st Verse

Girl you really got me now You got me so I don't know what I'm doin'

7 A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5

mf *sim.* *slight P.M.*

P.M. 1/2 full 1/2 1/2

As heard on the Warner Bros. recording Van Halen

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VAN HALEN

A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5

pitch: F# G F# F# G# B C C# F# G G# G A

Girl you really got me now You got me so I don't know where I'm goin' yeah Oh
(Girl) (Oh)

sim.

Yeah you really got me now You got me so I can't sleep at night (Yeah)

J

really

VAN HALEN

E 2nd Verse

Please		don't ever		let me be		I only
	N.C.		N.C.		N.C.	N.C.
A5	(G)	A5	(G)	A5	(G)	A5

25

D A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G) A5 N.C. (G)

pick scrapes

mf P.M.

7 7 7 5

2 0 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3

wanna be by your side

Please don't ever

A5 N.C. A5
(G)

N.C. A5 N.C.
(G) A5

N.C.
(G)

29

A5 N.C. A5 P.H. (15ma) N.C. A5 (G) A5 N.C. (G)

P.M. P.H. 1 1/2 V grad. bend 1 1/2 P.M.

pitch: G# B G#

let me be I only wanna be by your side

Ah.

A5 N.C. (G) A5

N.C.
(G)

N.C.
(G) A5

32 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

P.M.

33 34 35

36 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

37 38 39

40 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

41 42 43

44 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

45 46 47

48 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

49 50 51

52 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

53 54 55

56 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

57 58 59

60 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

61 62 63

64 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

65 66 67

68 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

69 70 71

72 A5 (G) A5 (G) A5 (G) A5

* tap w/ right-hand finger & slide simultaneously

F Pre-chorus

Girl
(Girl)

you really got me now You got me so I don't know what I'm doin' yeah

Oh
(Oh

35 B5 N.C. B5

N.C.(A) B5 A6 B5

A6 B5 A6 B5

N.C.(A) B5 A6 B5

D5 D#5

[illegible]

you really got me VAN HALEN

52

(A) (G) (A) (G) (A) (G) (A) (F)

full 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2 2 1/2

20 17 19 17 19 (19) 17 19 (19) 16 14 17 17 17 17 17 (17) 14

* played slightly behind the beat

54

(A) hold bend. fdbk (15ma)

grad. bend 1 1/2 full

17 17 (17) 14 14 (14) 9 (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9) (9)

15 16

*Toggle switch: (off) -on -(off) -on -(off) etc.

fdbk

pitch: G G G G G G G G G G

*While sustaining bent note, flick toggle switch between "off" and "on" positions so that the notes will sound in the specified rhythm.

I Breakdown (w/ vocal ad lib)

Girl you really got me now You got me so I don't know what I'm doin'

58

hold bend fdbk (15ma)

pick scrape

pitch: G G G

15

Girl you really got me now you got me so I can't sleep at night

66

mf

slight P.M.

pick scrape

5 5 7 (7)

12 / 14

J Pre-Chorus

Girl (Girl) you really got me now You got me so I don't know where I'm goin' yeah Oh (Oh)

71

B5 A6 B5 A6 B5 A6 B5 A6 B5 A6 B5 A6 B5 D5 D#5

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 2 3

2 2 0 2 0 2 2 0 2 (2) 0 2 2 0 2 (2) 0 2 2 0 2 2 0 1

you really got me VAN HALEN

K Chorus

yeah
yeah) You really got me now You got me so I can't sleep at night (You

E5 D5 E5 D E D E D E D E D

75

78

really got me Oh You really got me You really got me)

E D N.C.(E) D E D N.C.(E) E N.C.

L Outro

Free Time (♩ = 88)

81

Oh Oh Oh

E Em7

83

E5

you really got me^{bassline}

WORDS AND MUSIC BY RAY DAVIES
TRANSCRIBED BY ANDY ALEDORT

VAN HALEN

• Tune down 1/2 step (low to high: E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭)

A Intro

Moderate Rock ♩ = 140

1 3 A5 G A5 G A5 G A5 (play 4 times) G A5 G A5 G

Elec. Bass

10 3 5 5 3 5 3 5 5 3 5 3

* All pitches sound 1/2 step lower than written (key of A♭).

B 1st Verse

Girl...

7 A5 G A5 G A5 G A5 A5 G A5 G (play 3 times)

5 5 3 5 3 5 5 3 5 3 5 3 2 0 3 5 5 3 5 3

C Pre-chorus

Yeah...

11 B5 A B5 A B5 A B5 A B5 A

5 0 0 3 4 5 7 7 5 7 5 7 7 5 7 5

D Chorus

Oh yeah...

15 B5 A B5 D5 D#5 E D E (play 4 times) D E D E D E D E D

7 7 5 7 7 5 5 6 7 7 5 7 (7) 5 7 7 5 7 (7) 0 5 7 7 5 7 (7) 0 5

E 2nd Verse

Please...

19 E D E D A5 G A5 G (play 3 times)

7 7 5 7 (7) 0 0 5 15 5 5 3 5 3 5 3

As heard on the Warner Bros. recording Van Halen

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you really got me VAN HALEN

F Pre-chorus

Yeah...

Oh

24 A5 G A5 G (play 4 times) B5 A B5 A B5 A B5 D5 D#5 (play 3 times)

G Chorus

yeah...

28 E D E D E D E D (play 3 times) D

H Guitar Solo

33 A G A G A G A C D A G A G

37 A G A F G A G A G A G A G

I Breakdown

w/vocal ad lib

Girl...

41 A G A G A (grad. slide) 3 7

J Pre-chorus

Yeah...

K Chorus

Oh yeah...

54 B5 A5 B5 (play 3 times) A5 B5 A B5 D5 D#5 E D E D

L Outro

Free time ♩ = 88

58 E D E D E D E Em7

aneurysm

WORDS AND MUSIC BY KURT COBAIN,
CHRIS NOVOSELIC AND DAVID GROHL
TRANSCRIBED BY JEFF PERRIN

NIRVANA

A Intro

Moderately Fast Rock ♩ = 144

1 F#5 C B A5 A F#5 C5 C B A5 A

Gtr.1 (clean, w/chorus) let ring -----

TAB

4	4	0	3	5	5	5	4	4	4	0	2	2	2	0	4	4	0	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	0	2	2	2	0
4	4	0	3	5	5	5	4	4	4	0	2	2	2	0	4	4	0	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	0	2	2	2	0
2	2	0					2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

5 * N.C.(F#) (C) (B) (A) (F#) (C)

Gtr.1 (w/dist.)

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4

Gtr.2 (w/dist.)

3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4

* Chord progression implied by bass gtr.

8 (B) (A) (F#) (C) (B) (A)

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 7 7 7 7 8 8 8 8

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 7 7

* More aggressive vibrato raises pitch.

As heard on Nirvana's SubPop/DGC recording *Incesticide*

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11

13

17

20

5/6 6 0 6 6 | 6/7 7 7 0 7 0 7 | 7/8 8 8 0 0 8

5/6 6 6 6 6 | 6/7 7 7 7 7 | 7/8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

23

Moderate Rock ♩ = 132

B5

Bsus4

[illegible]

29

D5

B5

(w/dist.)

(dist. off)
P.M. -----|

P.M. -----|

7	7	7	7	7	7
7	7	7	7	7	7
5	5	5	5	5	5

7	7	7	7	7	7	0
7	7	7	7	7	7	0
5	5	5	5	5	5	0

4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

32

Bsus4 D

P.M. -----

(w/dist.)

B Verses

Come on over and do the twist
 All that I do so much you have a fit
 Love is so much you make me sick
 But come on over and do the twist
 (on D.S.) (Oh come on over and shoot the shit)

Ah ha
 Ah ha
 Ah ha
 Ah ha

Gtr.2 plays Rhy. Fill 1 fourth time
 Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fill 2 fourth time (play 4 times)

35

B5 Bsus4 B5 D

(dist. off) P.M. -----

P.M. -----

P.M. -----

(w/dist.)

(4th time) D.S. $\otimes$ al Coda $\oplus$

(4th time on D.S.) To Coda $\oplus$

C Chorus

(Beat it beat it) Beat me out of me

(Beat it beat it)

Beat me out of me

F#5 G#5 A5

Bb5 B5

Bb5 A5

N.C.

F#5 G#5 A5

Bb5 B5

Bb5 A5

N.C.

Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fill 3 second and third times
 Gtrs. 1 and 2 play Rhy. Fill 4 fourth time (play 4 times)

39

* Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fill 3 second, third and fourth times

* Gtr.2

* Gtr.1 doubles simile

* Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fill 3 on D.S.

Rhy. Fill 1

(D)

N.C.

Rhy. Fill 2

(D)

N.C.

Gtr.2

Gtr.1

TAB

(7) 7 7 7 7 12 0 0

(5) 5 5 5 5 0 0

TAB

(7) 7 7 7 7

(5) 5 5 5 5 6 18 0

Rhy. Fill 3

B5

Bb5

A5

Rhy. Fill 4

B5

Bb5

A5

Asus7

A5

Gtr.1

Gtrs. 1 and 2

TAB

0 0 0 7 7 7 0

7 7 6 5 5 5 0

TAB

0 0 0 0 7 5 7 7

7 7 6 5 5 5 5

⊕ Coda

43 N.C.(F#)

Gtr.1

Gtr.2

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 0 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 0 6 0

3 3 3 4 4 4 5 5 6 6

47

N.H. on (4)

N.H. on (4)

pitch: F#

fdbk.
(8va)

fdbk.

pitch: F#

51

N.H.

N.H.

1/2

11 11 11 12 12 12 12 13 13 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14

11 12 12 13 13 (13) 14 14 14 14 14

pitch: D

pitch: E

D Bridge grad. (increase to ♩ = 150)

F#5 She keeps a pumpin' straight to my heart F#5 She keeps a pumpin' straight to my heart
 Gtr.1 plays Rhy. Fig.1 C5 B A5 C5 B A5

♩ = 136 N.C.

pitch: F#

pitch: G

67

8 8 8 8 8 8 9 9 9 9 | 10 11 11 12 12 12 12 11 11 | 12 13 13 13 14 13 14 14 14 15 15 17 16

7 7 8 8 9 9 10 11 12 13 13 13 13 13 14 15 16

Free Time

70

16 17 18 18 18 17 17 17 17 17 3 3 3 3 1/2 (3)

(16) 16 17 17 17 17 19 20 0 X X 18 18 18 21 20 18 20 21 20

72

(3) 3

21 21 20 22 19 21 (21) 9 full (9) full (9) full

b a s s l i n e

N I R V A N A

Intro

Moderately Fast Rock ♩ = 144

1

N.C.(F#5) (C) (B5) (A5) (play 4 times) F#5 C B5 A5 (play 8 times)

4/4

Elec. bass (w/pick)

T

B

2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0

[illegible]

12 Bsus4 D5

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 0

[illegible]

Verses

1., 2. Come on over...

19 B5 Bsus4 D

2 2 2 2 X 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 5 5 5 5 5 5 3 5 3 5 4 3 0

As heard on Nirvana's SubPop/DGC recording *Incesticide*

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23 B5 Bsus4 D

2 2 2 2 X 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 5 5 5 3 5 (3)

27 B5 Bsus4 D

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 | 5 5 5 5 6 | 5 6 5 5 (0)

31 B5 Bsus4 D

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 5 4 5 5 5 (5)

C Chorus

(4th time) D.S. al Coda

(on D.S.) (4th time) To Coda

35 Beat me... F#5 G#5 A5 Bb5 B5 Bb5 A5 N.C. F#5 G#5 A5 Bb5 B5 Bb5 A5 N.C. (play 4 times)

2 2 4 0 5 0 0 1 | 2 2 2 1 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 4 0 5 0 0 1 | 2 2 2 1 0 0 0 0 (0)

* play note in parentheses 4th time

Coda

39 N.C.(F#5) (F#5) (C) (B5) (A5) (play 3 times) (play 4 times)

2 2 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 | 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0

D Bridge

43 F#5 C5 B A N.C.(F#5) (play 10 times) (play 7 times)

2 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 | 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 | 2 2 2 2 0 0 0 0

(play repeats simile)

* Unmute after 2nd time

notation guide

Row 1: Bending Techniques

- Bend (half step)
- Bend (whole step)
- Bend (one-and-a-half steps)
- Bend (two whole steps)
- Grace-note Bend
- Bend and Release

Row 2: Advanced Bending and Unison

- Pre-bend (string bent before picking)
- Pre-bend and Release (reverse bend)
- Compound Bend and Release (first note picked only)
- Slight Bend (microtone)
- Unison Bend

Row 3: Vibrato and Bar Techniques

- Vibrato
- Wide Vibrato
- Sweep Picking
- Rake Strings
- Vibrato Bar Dive and Return
- Vibrato Bar Pre-dive and Return
- Vibrato Bar Scooping

Row 4: Bar and Slide Techniques

- Vibrato Bar Dips
- Slide (both notes picked)
- Legato Slide (first note picked only)
- Pull-off (first note picked only)
- Hammer-on (first note picked only)
- "Hammer-on From Nowhere" (left-hand tap)
- Legato Phrasing (first note picked only)
- Ghost Note

Row 5: Phrasing and Muting Techniques

- Staccato Phrasing (short notes)
- Choppy Phrasing (extreme staccato)
- Fret-hand Muting (percussive tone)
- Pick-hand Muting (w/palm)
- Tremolo Picking
- Trill (Fast Hammer-on/Pull-off Combination)
- Pick Scrapes

Row 6: Harmonics and Special Techniques

- Natural Harmonics (open strings)
- Artificial Harmonics (l.h. fret positions indicated in parentheses)
- Pinch Harmonic (with pick) (overtone of 5th generated)
- Touch Harmonic
- Tap Harmonic
- Tap-on Technique
- Bend and Tap-on Technique

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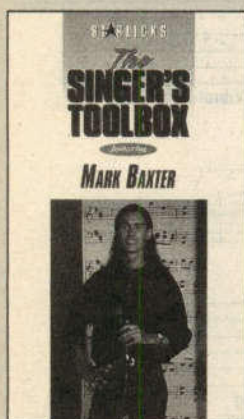


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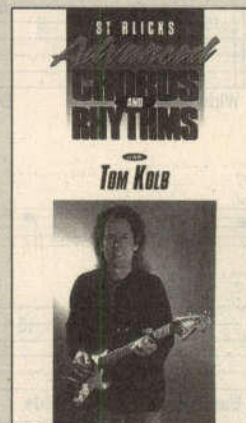


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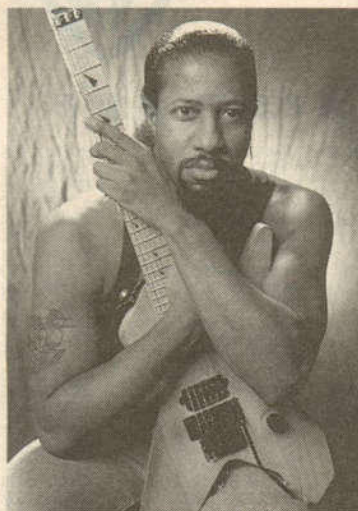
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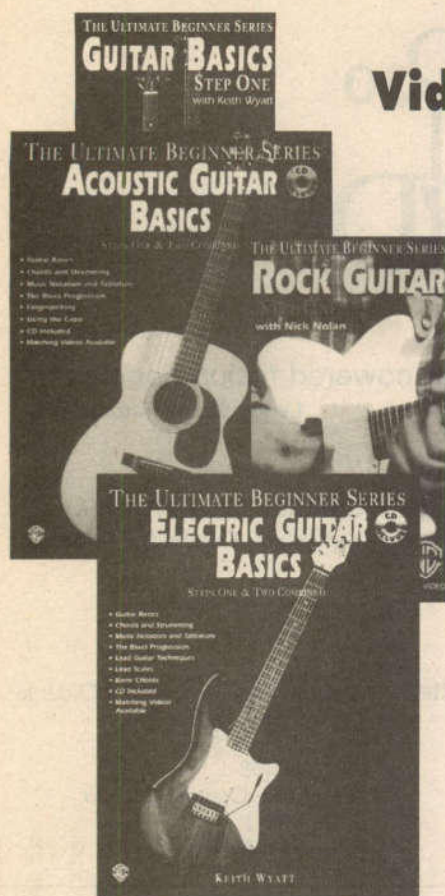
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good REVERBERATIONS

By Ritchie Fliegler

LAST MONTH, WE left off with part two of our trek into the world of effects. Here's a quick recap—flanging, chorus and phasing are pretty much the same thing, the differences being the amount of delay used to create the effect. The delay is then modulated by the use of an oscillator to create the "movement" or sweep that completes the effect. These effects can be created by using a digital or analog delay with an LFO (Low Frequency Oscillator). If you are mostly into recording, a good digital delay, though more expensive than any single pre-programmed effect unit, will save you money in the long run because, besides creating echoes, it can create all of the previously mentioned effects.

ECHO

ECHO WAS ONE of the first effects made available to guitar players in a portable outboard unit. In the recording studio, echo was originally created using a spare tape deck. Studio decks differ from most home decks in that they have three heads (erase, record and play, in that order) instead of two (in home units the record and play heads are combined). A signal was fed into the echo deck as it was being played, or mixed down. The deck recorded this sound via the record head. There was a delay as the tape made its way towards the play head where it was re-mixed with the original signal... you now had a single echo.

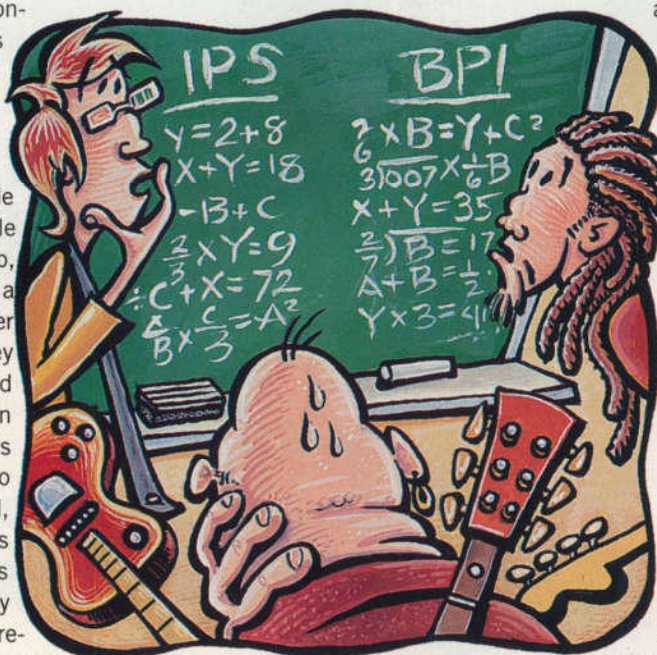
Multiple echoes were created by mixing a bit of the playback head's delayed signal back into the record head, thus forming a feedback loop. With each pass of this tape-playback-tape again cycle, the signal degraded more and more until it "walked out into the fog" and was replaced by a new cleaner one. The delay times were regulated by the speed of the tape. During the Fifties and Sixties, there were big charts on studio walls translating tape speeds (IPS—Inches Per Second) into tempos (BPM—Beats Per Minute).

The original Echoplex worked in a similar fashion, only the playback head was on a movable track. Move the playback head close to

the record head and you get a short delay; move it away and you get a longer one. It's also possible to create an unintended effect by setting up a lot of repeats and then moving the playback head. The resultant echophonic mess can be heard in all its glory in the psychedelic middle section of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love"—ah, ah, ah...

REVERB

ECHO'S CLOSE COUSIN, reverb, is also as old as the hills. Today, the most common forms of reverb are digital boxes and the spring units



found in amps. Spring reverbs work like this: A signal is routed to a "pan" in which two or more springs are suspended from transducers that turn electrical energy into mechanical energy, and vice versa. The first transducer gets a signal that is turned into mechanical energy which mirrors the sound and shakes the spring. That spring sets up vibrations which are sympathetically felt by the other spring. All this sympathy and shaking is turned back into an electrical signal by the transducers on the other side of the springs. Digital reverb does the same thing by taking fractional parts of the sound, delaying and equalizing them and then re-mixing them to create a reverb effect.

LESLIES AND ROTATING SPEAKER EFFECTS

DON LESLIE FIGURED out that musicians would like the sound of their instruments forced through a few baffles and horns and then spun around inside a wood cabinet. The original Leslie speaker uses the physics of Doppler Shift to create a sound that is one cool addition to a guitarist's bag o' tricks.

Doppler Shift (discovered by Christian Doppler, Austrian mathematician, 1803-1853) is the phenomenon that causes ambulance sirens and train whistles to change in apparent pitch as they get closer and then move away from you (sound waves compress as they approach and spread out as they move away, proportional to speed). The Leslie does this by focusing the bass frequencies into a spinning baffle and the treble frequencies through a horn that is also spinning. The resultant tone is quite amazing. If you've never heard a real live Leslie up close, you're missing one of the great experiences of this musical life.

The laws of inertia also come into play. The Leslie's rotating bass baffle has a lot more mass than the treble horn. When you change speeds, the relative masses of the two components cause them to change speed at different rates. This is why the Leslie-addicted among us are always stepping on the footswitch to mess up the sound even more!

Leslie cabinets include a built-in Class A tube amp as good as any out there, but if you plan on using one onstage you'll have to eat your Wheaties. A real Leslie is very heavy and big. It's also expensive, hard to find and prone to all the problems of an antique electro-mechanical device. There are smaller Leslie boxes that use a combination of phase shift and frequency modulation to create a similar effect, but compared to the big guy it's kind of like lite beer.

Ritchie Fliegler is the author of *The Complete Guide to Guitar and Amp Maintenance* (Hal Leonard). Send your questions to: Box 18247, Fountain Hills, AZ 85260.

WASHBURN

ONS

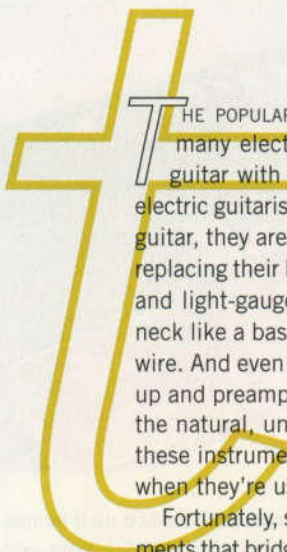
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not necessarily **UNPLUGGED,** but electrified

By Chris Gill

*Godin A6, Fernandes LSA-65 and
Washburn RR200 electric-acoustics*



THE POPULARITY OF acoustic-based music has caused many electric guitarists to scramble for an acoustic guitar with a built-in pickup system. But while most electric guitarists enjoy the sounds of a traditional acoustic guitar, they aren't especially thrilled about the thought of replacing their lithe solidbodies—sleek, fast-playing necks and light-gauge strings—with a bulky hollow box with a neck like a baseball bat and strings that feel like barbed-wire. And even though acoustic guitars with built-in pickup and preamp systems sound come close to duplicating the natural, unamplified character of an acoustic guitar, these instruments are especially susceptible to feedback when they're used onstage with a loud band.

Fortunately, several manufacturers have designed instruments that bridge the gap between acoustic and electric guitars. Most accurately described as electric-acoustics (as opposed to acoustic-electrics, which are standard acoustic guitars with built-in electronics), these solidbody instruments are designed to retain the looks, playability and feel of an electric guitar while producing a sound more like an amplified acoustic guitar than an electric. With an electric-acoustic, you can crank up your amp's volume way beyond levels that would cause even the most feedback-resistant hollowbody to shriek like a freight train whistle.

The following are a few of the latest electric-acoustics available on the market.

GODIN A6

GODIN'S ACOUSTICASTER WAS one of the first affordably priced solidbody electric-acoustic guitars. Since the introduction of that model, Godin has produced several similar instruments, including the steel-string and nylon-string Multiac guitars.

The A6 is Godin's latest addition to their electric-acoustic line. The A6 looks similar to a normal single-cutaway solidbody electric, but the lack of visible pickups and control knobs, the acoustic guitar-style rosewood pin bridge and slotted soundhole with four slider controls in the upper bass bout show that this is not a normal electric guitar.

A quick strum on the unplugged guitar further establishes this fact. Featuring a two inch-deep maple body with two large sound chambers and a bookmatched, solid cedar top, the A6 produces an sonorous, loud, ringing tone similar to a

LORINDA SULLIVAN

A Class A Act— TOP HAT King Royale

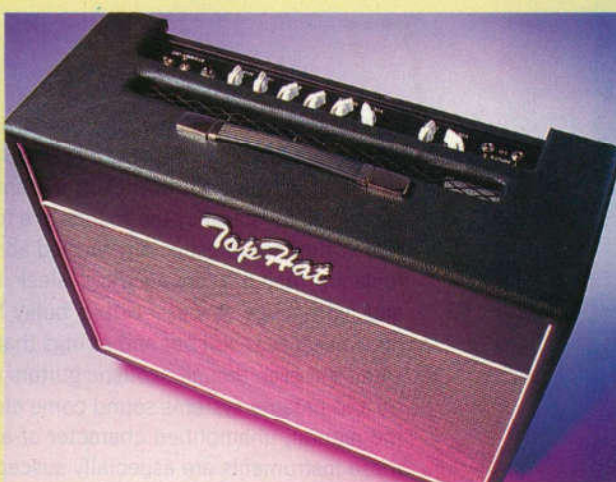
By Chris Gill

MOST CUSTOM AMP builders merely imitate classic circuits, perhaps adding a few minor modifications to make their amps stand out from the pack. There is, however, a handful of progressive companies whose innovative designs significantly improve on classic concepts to provide guitarists with exciting new sounds and greater versatility.

Top Hat's King Royale is one of the more impressive newcomers in the latter category. Featuring a 35-watt Class A design that utilizes four EL84 tubes, the Royale is based on the venerable Vox AC30 Top Boost circuit, but it offers plenty of thoughtful features that neither of these amps ever included.

The Royale features two independent channels that have different voicings and response characteristics. Channel 1 sounds similar to an early-Sixties brown Tolex Fender Deluxe, but the Class A power stage and two 12-inch speakers (a peculiar "mismatched" pair consisting of a Celestion 25-watt Greenback and 30-watt Vintage) provide considerably more volume. Channel 2 has the glassy high-end of a Vox AC30 Top Boost and the full-frequency expansiveness of a black-face Twin Reverb. Each channel's tone controls vary slightly: Channel 1 features a single tone control and Channel 2 includes the full array—treble (which pulls out for gain boost), middle and bass. Both channels share a Cut control, which rolls off high frequencies as you turn it up, and a cool bypassable master volume that enables the King Royale to operate as a non-master volume amp.

The Royale produces a surprisingly wide variety of classic sounds. Its clean tones can compete with those of the best Fender and



Vox amps, and cranked up it pumps out anything from a fat, barking tone with smooth midrange sustain to a huge, gnarly rasp similar to a rascally mid-Sixties Marshall. The boost control is footswitchable, great for adding extra punch for leads. However, the amp doesn't offer built-in channel switching, so you'll need to purchase an A/B box if you want to take advantage of the amp's full capabilities.

bottom line

RETAILING FOR MORE than two grand, the Top Hat is expensive, but considering all of the classic Vox, Fender and Marshall sounds that this hand-wired beauty can summon, it's a lot more cost effective than buying those individual amps. Plus, features like an effects loop and footswitchable gain provide a level of flexibility unattainable on old amps unless they're modified. Top Hat takes the best of the old and new to give today's players what they really want.

MODEL: King Royale

LIST PRICE: \$2,195

MANUFACTURER: Top Hat, 2038 W. Whittier Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631; (310) 691-2131

Dobro's. Only the bridge is attached to the cedar top, which allows the top to vibrate freely and contributes to the guitar's resonant tone. The A6 is much lighter than the average solid-body and feels especially comfortable even when worn for long periods of time.

The body is bound with single-ply white binding that accentuates the guitar's subtle curves. Small nails are used for fretboard markers instead of inlays, contributing to the guitar's simple, uncluttered appearance. The instrument's only fancy feature is its gold-plated tuners.

The A6's bolt-on Honduras mahogany neck features a rosewood fingerboard, 25.5-inch scale and 22 large, rounded frets. The fingerboard is wide but comfortable, and the neck's profile is sleek and somewhat shallow. The neck will definitely satisfy electric players who prefer the fast action of a standard electric guitar.

Plugged in, the A6 sounds remarkably similar to a good acoustic-electric. Although it sounds best when connected to a P.A. system or acoustic guitar amp, the A6 produces convincing tones even when plugged into a standard guitar amp. The L.R. Baggs ribbon transducer, which is mounted under the bridge saddle, accurately captures the guitar's percussive attack and ringing sustain. Four control sliders mounted in the guitar's upper bass bout allow you to adjust volume and high, mid and low frequency response to your preference. The A6 preamp delivers a warm, natural tone with lush midrange, full bass and attractive high-end sparkle.

bottom line

WITH ITS LIGHTWEIGHT, highly resonant body and excellent pickup system, the A6 is a great choice both for electric players making the switch to an acoustic-electric and for acoustic players who want realistic-sounding acoustic tones onstage without the hassles of a hollowbody.

FERNANDES LSA-65

FERNANDES WAS ONCE known for their low-cost imitations of classic American electrics, but lately they've made a name for themselves by concentrating on highly original designs and innovations like the ZO-3 travel guitar and the Fernandes Sustainer. The LSA-65 is another instrument that should help enhance their reputation.

Like the Godin, the LSA-65 looks more like a single-cutaway electric than an acoustic. However, its streamlined appearance ensures that you won't mistake it for a Les Paul knock-off. The only hardware on the guitar's top are three wooden knobs, a 1/4-inch output jack and a two-piece rosewood bridge/string anchor that houses the piezo pickups. The guitar is

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THE NIGHT IT WON THE AWARD FOR MOST INNOVATIVE MIXER OF THE YEAR, EVEN THE SOUNDWOMAN WAS USING A MACKIE DESIGNS SR24•4.

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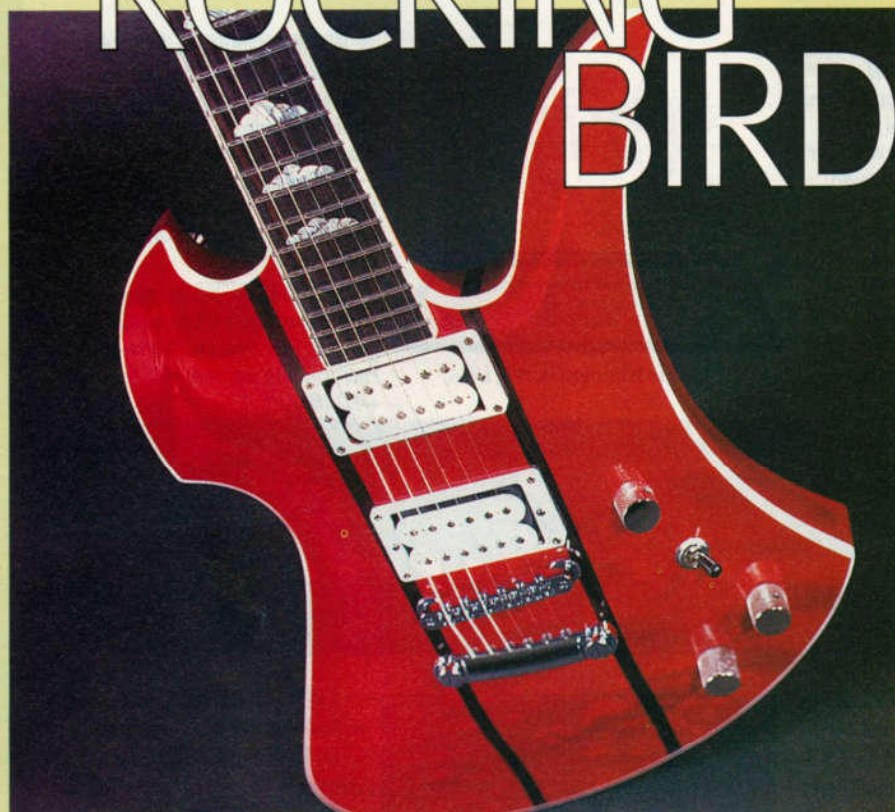
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to thrill a ROCKING BIRD

By Ray Diamond



B.C. Rich Mockingbird Arch Top Supreme

LIKE ITS ANGULAR cousin, the Ibanez Iceman, the B.C. Rich Mockingbird is one of the few eccentrically shaped guitars of the Seventies to have attained legendary rock status. The Iceman was immortalized by Kiss's Paul Stanley, while the Mockingbird earned its wings in the hands of another enduring Seventies guitar icon, Aerosmith's Joe Perry.

And while arguments over which of these venerable giants is the greatest guitarist of the bell-bottom decade have certainly sparked their fair share of beer-and-blood-soaked barroom brawls, even the most loyal soldier of the Kiss army would have to pause a second before smashing his 'Smith-lovin' enemy's face to admit that Joe Perry looked cool with that B.C. Rich hanging over his rockin' crotch. The Mockingbird, after all, with its executioner's-axe-meets-demon-tongue design is an object that celebrates the spirit—and sound—of rock and roll in all its mad excess.

The Mockingbird's oddball contour is merely a quirky cosmetic flourish that tops off a painstakingly crafted and superbly designed instrument. From its rock-solid neck-through-body design, which provides easy access to the instrument's 24 impeccably laid frets, to the

lusciously playable ebony fretboard, to the super smooth, cooler-than-a-Cadillac Grover Imperial tuning machines that grace its bulbous headstock, this is one hundred percent serious guitar—with a serious sound to boot.

Plugged into various Marshalls and Fenders, this guitar bites as bad as it barks. The aforementioned neck-through construction and ebony fretboard, both enhanced by the gorgeous maple top, combine to create a truly stinging, wildly responsive beast. The bridge pickup, a Seymour Duncan Alnico Pro, is punchy and bright, almost like a Fender Telecaster on steroids, while the neck pickup (also a Duncan) sounds clear and bell-like. Performing clean as well as dirty work, the Mockingbird chirps musically and distinctively.

bottom line

Draw the line straight to your local guitar mart and grab one of the birds before it flies away.

MODEL: Mockingbird Arch Top Supreme
LIST PRICE: \$1,899
MANUFACTURER: B.C. Rich, 17205 Eucalyptus B-5, Hesperia, CA 92345; (619) 956-1599

appointed with single-ply white binding and a graphic flame finish that gives the guitar the appearance of a highly figured piece of maple.

The guitar has a lightweight basswood body with sound chambers and a maple bolt-on neck with a rosewood fingerboard. Gold-plated Gotoh tuners with warm-hued amber buttons complement the headstock's dark wood overlay, and distinctive triangle-and-parallel-ogram inlays decorate the fingerboard. An easy-access battery compartment, which facilitates quick battery changes should you run low on juice during a gig, is mounted on the back of the body. With its shallow profile, wide fingerboard and 22 large, flat frets, the neck feels similar to that of an electric guitar.

Thanks to its high-quality Shadow SH006 piezo pickups and built-in Fishman AGP-2P preamp, the LSA-65 sounds full-bodied and rich when plugged in. Harsh treble overtones normally encountered with piezo pickups are non-existent, and the bass response is especially tight. The tone is well-balanced across the entire frequency spectrum, and you can cut or boost the treble and bass to your liking with the guitar's center-detented rotary knobs. The volume control is also center-detented, and the "click" can be annoying if you are attempting to perform smooth volume swells.

bottom line

The LSA-65 looks and feels like a good electric solidbody, making it ideal for guitarists who primarily play electric guitar but want to explore acoustic-like tones. The Fernandes sounds remarkably close to an acoustic guitar and should satisfy solo "acoustic" players as well as guitarists who play in a full band.

RR200 SAMMY HAGAR

SAMMY HAGAR MAY be bummed about being booted out of Van Halen, but at least he managed to get Washburn to make a few signature-series guitars bearing his name prior to his unceremonious departure. Although Sammy won't be singing Van Halen tunes any longer, you can be sure that he'll still be using his Washburns on stage, even if that stage is just the one at his local watering hole.

The RR200 is a lot like its namesake—flashy, loud and, umm, slightly overweight. Its body dimensions are like an oversize, extra-wide Les Paul, and its solid mahogany body and flame maple top give the guitar additional heft. With its single cutaway, glued-in neck, four top-mounted knobs and bridge pickup, this guitar definitely looks more like a traditional electric solidbody (kind of like a Les Paul Jr.) than the other electric-acoustics. Featuring a bright red finish, three-layer body binding, oversized butterfly bridge and shiny, chrome-plated knobs and Grover tuners, the RR200 is sure

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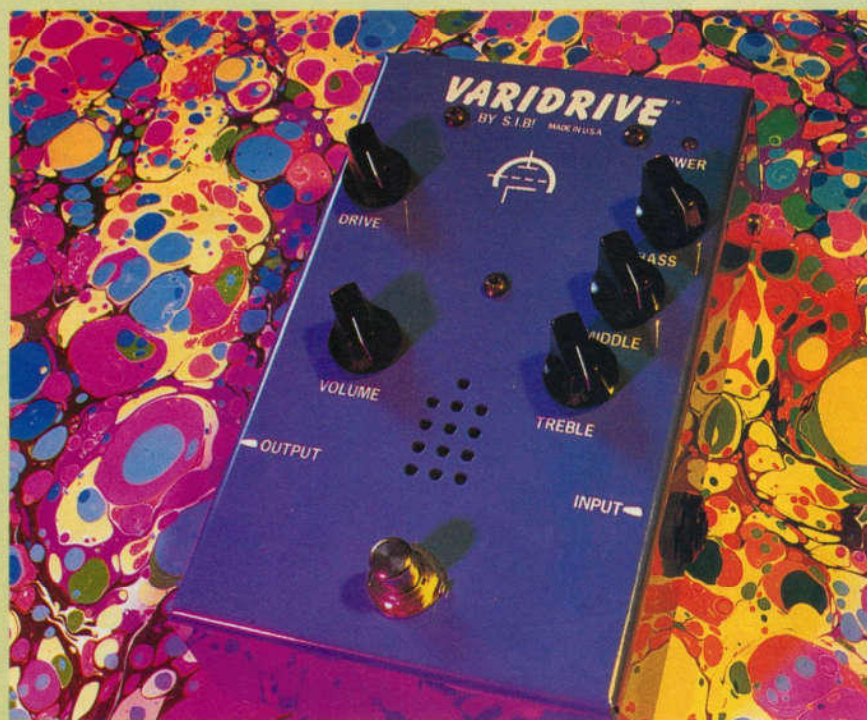
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stay sick, TURN BLUE

By Tom Gogola

S.I.B. Varidrive



BIGGER AND BLUER than Paul Bunyan's pal Babe, S.I.B.'s tube-driven Varidrive is one of the coolest-looking fuzz boxes on the market. And it crushes and snorts like a deranged ox, too.

Featuring volume, drive, treble, midrange and bass controls, the Varidrive is a fun box that's extremely useful for players who need to sculpt different tones to suit a variety of sonic sensibilities. Unlike most minimalist, one-dimensional fuzz boxes, the Varidrive gives you a lot of options for sculpting your tone.

Tweaking all the controls to the max unleashes an overdriven, fuzzed-out feedback fury, perfect for plucking harmonics, making abominable noise and impressing metal chicks. The tone gets a little splatty with the midrange turned up, but zapping the midrange, cranking the bass, putting the treble at a respectable 6 or 7 and blasting both drive and volume gives a perfectly saturated, tight chunk, ideal for compressed power chords and whiz-bang single-string soloing.

There's a lot of fuzz-induced signal running through this thing. My Strat's single-coil pickups recoiled at the horror of having to bear the load of this awesome wild animal as it

ripped through the wall of sound, taking no prisoners and goring everything in sight. Dialing down the guitar's volume is not recommended while you've got the Varidrive going, especially if you've got the midrange turned up. A noise gate is necessary if you like to control volume from the guitar.

By turning down the drive and volume, taking off a little treble and turning up the midrange, the Varidrive produces a "clean tube" sound with less fuzz and sweet overdrive.

bottom line

THE VARIDRIVE PUTS out a fattened sound yet maintains note clarity. You can dial in sounds that are extremely dirty, industrial and way, way over the top—Jimi Hendrix on acid, if you will. Wait, he already was on acid. How about Hendrix on a combination of Lemmy Kilmister's mustache shavings and Cannibal Corpse's doggy bag contents. That's *lethal* stuff, kids.

MODEL: Varidrive
LIST PRICE: \$329
MANUFACTURER: S.I.B., 5025 Shawline St., San Diego, CA 92111; (619) 565-2349

to attract almost as much attention as Van Halen's lead singer debacle.

Unlike the other electric-acoustics in this review, the RR200 is a hybrid axe that is designed to provide both electric and acoustic-electric sounds. The guitar sports a single-coil-sized, dual-blade Seymour Duncan-designed Hot Rails pickup in the bridge position, and piezo pickups are mounted in the guitar's bridge. A rotary mix control allows you to switch from a straight electric tone to an amplified acoustic sound or dial in any desired blend of the two.

The RR200 is a versatile instrument that should satisfy players who need to switch between electric and acoustic sounds frequently on stage. The "acoustic" tones produced by the guitar's built-in Fishman Acoustic Matrix transducer pickups have a defined presence that fits nicely in the mix with bass, drums and electric guitar. The guitar's active treble and bass boost/cut controls allow you to dial in tones ranging from bright and cutting to dark and warm. The Hot Rails pickup produces a tone that is slightly fatter than a Telecaster but not quite as full as a P-90. The RR200's electric tones effectively complement the tones of a humbucker-equipped guitar.

The guitar has a mono output jack, which means that the "acoustic" and electric signals have to be amplified through the same system. This may lead to a few tonal compromises, as piezo pickups usually sound best through a P.A. or an acoustic guitar amp, but regular electric pickups sound best through a standard guitar amp. An A/B box is recommended if you want to switch between different amplification systems.

bottom line

IF YOU NEED to instantly switch between electric and acoustic guitar sounds onstage, the RR200 is a great choice. Electric guitarists will appreciate the familiar feel of the guitar's heft and solid construction as well as the traditional placement of the controls.

contact INFO

MODEL: A6
LIST PRICE: \$795
Manufacturer: Godin, 4240 Rue Seré, St-Laurent, QC Canada H4T 1A6; (514) 343-5560

MODEL: LSA-65
LIST PRICE: \$799
Manufacturer: Fernandes, 12600 Saticoy St. South, N. Hollywood, CA 91605; (818) 764-8383

MODEL: RR200
LIST PRICE: \$2,199.90
Manufacturer: Washburn, 255 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061; (847) 913-5511

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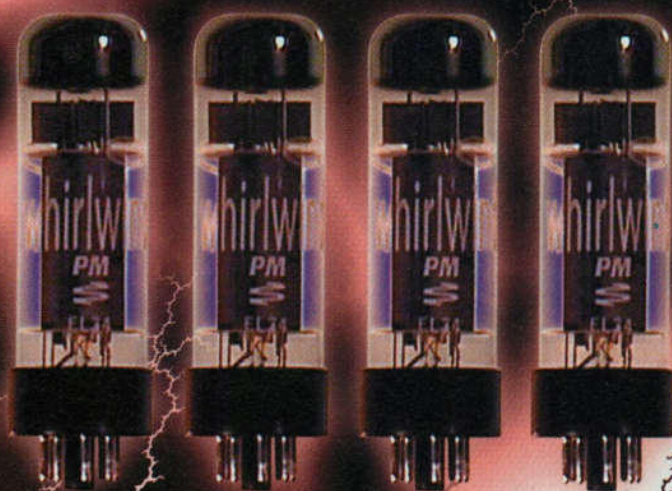
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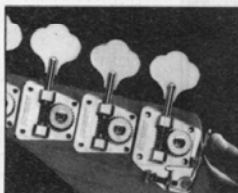
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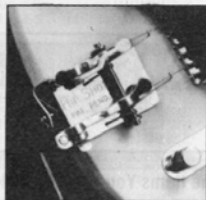
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BRIAN SETZER & THE REV. HORTON HEAT

Continued from page 30

ingful. A lot of times I try to write something that's funny. At least that communicates better to people than writing something stupid like "Breathe in, breathe out."

Sometimes I'll come up with a good idea and then work on that sucker for two years. Sometimes I'll trash the whole lyric and come back with something new. But sometimes it's easy. I wrote "That's Showbiz" in the middle of the night when I couldn't sleep. I was sitting there smokin' a cigarette, and I wrote the whole song in one pass. If they had a drug that could make you do that all the time, I'd be an addict.

GW: Both of you are exceptionally talented guitarists who are adept at a variety of styles. How does it feel to wave the flag for musicianship during a time when chops are being downplayed?

HEAT: Brian can play really well—he's one of the foremost guitar players of the last half of this century. He's taken everything from jazz and blues to country and rock and roll and put it all together, and at the same time it's not a lot of fast tricks. He's really creative. That's inspired me a lot. It's a lot harder to play clean when you've got a tone like Brian's. You've got to be right on the money. It's not like when you crank up a Kramer through a Marshall and do all that stupid stuff.

SETZER: I don't think that's where power comes from. I hear rockabilly records from the Fifties that are much more powerful than any heavy metal band. I hear Johnny Cash records that blow away a loud guitar through an amp. It's not about how loud you turn the damn thing up. A record is only going to play so loud, and you can turn it down.

GW: What are some of your influences that don't fall in the rockabilly realm?

HEAT: Tom Waits is awesome. I'd like to do some more songs in that style. It's not necessarily that I want to sing like Tom Waits, but it's his attitude and the way he produces his records. I like surf guitar, too. A lot of my playing is inspired by garage rock. I like fast and loud rock and roll. It's like going to a drag race. I like a lot of metal bands, especially hard, straight ones. Mötörhead is awesome. I like beautiful music, too. Sometimes the grunge thing gets on my nerves; so does the mindless funk beat with somebody endlessly strumming a chord. Attitude is important. You've got to be a rocker. That's why I'd rather go see Mötörhead than Hole.

GW: Who are the some of the rockabilly guitarists people should know about?

SETZER: Cliff Gallup, who played with Gene Vincent's Blue Caps, is a good place to start. He was his own guy. There was a lot

of jazz in his playing, but he slammed it. You've got to think about what those guys had in those days. Gallup was from rural Virginia, so all he probably had for musical influences were the church, white country radio and black radio. So he had the blues, Chet Atkins and gospel. Being not too far from New York, he probably had a little jazz coming down. It wasn't like now, when you're bombarded with everything. He probably took all those influences, plus the fact that he was a genius, and developed his own style.

HEAT: Isn't it funny how when he was doing those solos, he probably enjoyed himself like anybody in a band, without any idea of what he was going to mean to people like you and me? None of those guys did.

SETZER: You and I are doing that to young players now.

HEAT: And it's a big responsibility. [laughs]

SETZER: It makes my skin crawl. But we're just doing it for fun.

GW: What records would you recommend for the rockabilly beginner?

HEAT: Everybody has got to have Elvis Presley's *Sun Sessions*. That's where rock and roll came from. I'd also recommend anything by the Rock and Roll Trio with Johnny Burnette. Those guys were nuts, screaming their heads off in the studio.

SETZER: The Rock and Roll Trio is amazing! I was living in a house with four or five guys who all chipped in to pay the rent. Every room would have a record blasting, and I would try to blast the Rock and Roll Trio's records louder than they could blast their Pink Floyd.

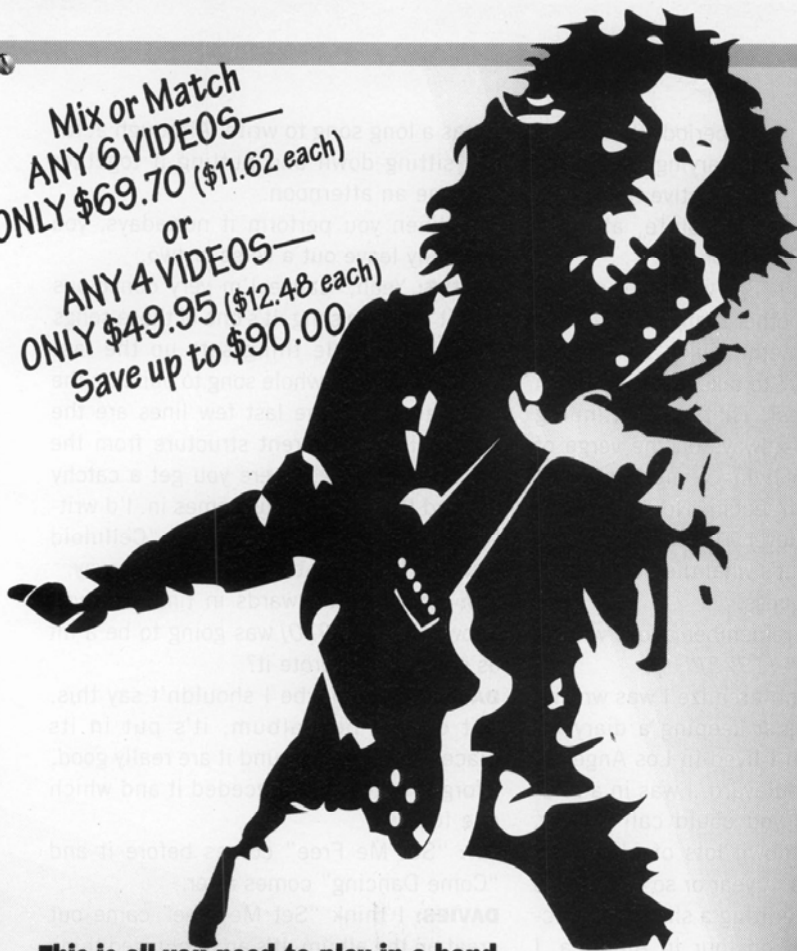
GW: Why are Gretsch guitars considered the ultimate rockabilly instruments?

HEAT: I play Gretsch reissues, but for a long time I played a Guild, which was a great guitar. Gibsons are great, too. If anybody wants to get into rockabilly, listen to Scotty Moore playing that old Gibson ES-295 or Super 400 on those early Elvis records.

But for me it's not so much the guitar as what you're doing with it. You could take Steve Vai's Kramer and whatever gonzola amp he's got, give it to Brian and let him mess with the tone controls a little bit, and I'd guarantee that you could tell it was Brian Setzer playing that axe.

I used to be in this rockabilly band where everything had to be from the Fifties. I had an old Fender amp that didn't work right, so I borrowed the bass player's Fender Concert. At one gig we played, these older record collector guys who I really looked up to said, "Your sound is not authentic." Later I got this beat-up speaker box and a 50-watt Marshall, and I'd hide the amp whenever we played. We went back to the same

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CONSTRUCTION: ☐ Bolt-on ☐ Neck-thru ☐ Set neck

MATERIAL: ☐ Alder ☐ Ash ☐ Maple ☐ Mahogany ☐ Figured Maple Top ☐ Other _____

BINDING TOP: ☐ Yes ☐ No BACK: ☐ Yes ☐ No BINDING COLOR: ☐ White ☐ Creme ☐ Black ☐ Natural

ROUTING: ☐ Back (No Pickguard) ☐ Front (With Pickguard)

PICKUP CONFIGURATION: BRIDGE: ☐ Hum ☐ SC MIDDLE: ☐ Hum ☐ SC NECK: ☐ Hum ☐ SC *Please specify slanted pickups

FINISH: (IF NOT A STANDARD FINISH, SUPPLY SAMPLE COLOR OR ARTWORK) _____

NECK

HEADSTOCK SHAPE: ☐ Eclipse ☐ ESP Pointed ☐ ESP Vintage ☐ Horizon
☐ Other _____

REVERSE: ☐ Yes ☐ No TILT: ☐ Yes ☐ No

HEADSTOCK FINISH: ☐ Black ☐ Natural ☐ Match Body Finish
☐ Other _____

NECK FINISH: ☐ Satin ☐ Match Body ☐ Unfinished ☐ Gloss
☐ Other _____

FINGERBOARD: ☐ Maple ☐ Rosewood ☐ Ebony

NUMBER OF FRETS: ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 24

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INLAYS: ☐ Dots ☐ Offset Dots ☐ None
☐ Other _____

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FINGERBOARD END: ☐ Square ☐ Round

FINGERBOARD BINDING: ☐ Yes ☐ No

HEADSTOCK BINDING: ☐ Yes ☐ No

BINDING COLOR: ☐ White ☐ Creme

NUT: ☐ Locking ☐ Bone ☐ Graphite

WIDTH: ☐ 15/8 ☐ 1 11/16 ☐ 1 3/4

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PICKGUARD: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Color _____

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BRIAN SETZER & THE REV. HORTON HEAT

place, and those collector guys came out and said, "Man, you sound great! What is that amp? You sound just like Cliff Gallup." They didn't know it was a 50-watt Marshall.

GW: Why do you think rockabilly has lasted so long?

SETZER: It captures an attitude of freedom and rebellion. A while back, I went out to my mom's neighborhood in Ridgewood, New York, a neighborhood between Brooklyn and Queens. There's a barber there named Johnny Santangelo, an old greaser guy. He opens at eight and stays open until three in the morning. Johnny's still got the pompadour and sideburns, and he has all his pictures up from the Fifties. He's got pizza out, cannolis and coffee, just for the neighborhood people who come in. Those people still live that life. They live in that rockabilly setting. They're still rebels. ●

RAY DAVIES

Continued from page 116

But it just so happened that the nature of the sounds they were making was kind of...drippy. I can't think of a better word for it. For me, it only became interesting when Frank Zappa came along and found a way of containing psychedelia and turning it into his own art form.

GW: Could you comment on the importance of the British music hall in your work?

DAVIES: For years and years I denied it. But listening to bands like Blur and Pulp, who write songs about English life, I can see a definite influence from music hall in what they're doing. I'm not saying it's all oom pah pah music. It's just in the attitude. A lot of those bands cite the Kinks as being an influence, so I think there's a common thread there.

GW: The music hall influence is the bit that gets left out of most rock histories. The party line is that the British Invasion groups just copied American rock and roll.

DAVIES: I think that's because music hall is, in rock and roll terms, quite an uncool thing to be associated with. It's hardly the most chic thing in the world. Whereas the blues is. But music hall was undeniably an important influence. And I'd put someone like [English comic singer and banjo-ukelele player] George Formby right up there with [American bluesman] Big Bill Broonzy. I feel they're connected in some way—albeit only through me. Some of the acoustic guitar stuff I do resonates with the George Formby style. And I'd also say that a lot of stuff Pete Townshend did was also Formbyesque.

GW: That fast strum.

DAVIES: Exactly.

GW: The Seventies were perhaps the Kinks'

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RAY DAVIES

most theatrical period, with concept albums like *Preservation Acts I and II* [RCA, 1973], *Soap Opera* [RCA, 1975] and *Schoolboys in Disgrace* [RCA, 1975]. Did live performance really change for you when you began assuming stage personae like Flash and Norman the Starmaker?

DAVIES: It did, yeah. The main problem we had with those shows was that we had to keep the focus on the band and the album we were promoting. Our record company said, "We're not in the theatre or film business. We're in the record business." So I had to do those shows and still keep the focus on the pit band, basically. I got the idea to incorporate the musicians into the plot as characters, to give them some other reason for being up there on stage. For example, [keyboardist] John Gosling became the Drunken Vicar. John liked to drink and he liked to play church organs, so it worked brilliantly. It was a bit hard to sell [Kinks drummer] Mick Avory on the idea. But old Mick, once I gave him a schoolboy's uniform to wear, he was like putty in my hands. That was a great band, a great period. It deserves a book of its own.

GW: The same lineup played on *Muswell Hillbillies* [RCA, 1971].

DAVIES: Yeah. A golden period, that. Even though the records had varying degrees of success, it was a good, creative time.

GW: Do you have an absolute, all-time favorite era of Kinks history?

DAVIES: No, I don't. But whenever people ask me to do stuff other than hits, I always end up playing something like "Here Come the People in Gray" to take me away [from *Muswell Hillbillies*]. That's a continuing theme in my life—always on the verge of being drawn into living a mediocre life where there's no freedom. No freedom of expression, or whatever. That's who the people in gray are. That's what the Corporation is, in my book, I guess.

GW: What do you remember about writing "Celluloid Heroes" [1972]?

DAVIES: Well, I didn't realize I was writing it at first. I was just keeping a diary for about a year when I lived in Los Angeles, just off Sunset Boulevard. I was in a relationship; I guess you could call it that. And I just wrote down lots of ideas and stories and things. A year or so later I was back in England, editing a short film documentary I'd shot on tour in America. I said to the film cutter in the editing room, "What's this stuff made of?" He said, "celluloid." And I said, "I've got the title." So

it was a long song to write. Although actually sitting down and putting it together took me an afternoon.

GW: When you perform it nowadays, you generally leave out a verse or two.

DAVIES: Yeah, 'cause I'm very conscious that it is a long song. It's one of those songs where the whole thing sets up the last verse. I used the whole song to build up the idea, and then the last few lines are the payoff. It's a different structure from the normal pop song, where you get a catchy riff and then the chorus comes in. I'd written that type of song before. "Celluloid Heroes" broke that rule, for me, anyway.

GW: Jumping backwards in time, did you know "Lola" [1970] was going to be a hit as soon as you wrote it?

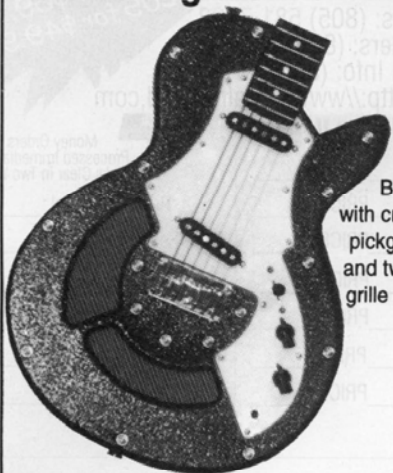
DAVIES: Yup. Maybe I shouldn't say this, but on the new album, it's put in its place. The songs around it are really good. I forget which one preceded it and which one follows.

GW: "Set Me Free" comes before it and "Come Dancing" comes after.

DAVIES: I think "Set Me Free" came out great on the album. It's an unplugged thing and it's played through one of those tiny little Korg practice amps, with brushes on the drums.

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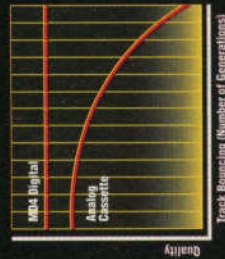
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RAY DAVIES

GW: The arrangement of "Apeman" on the new record is really cool—that ska beat.

DAVIES: Yeah. The accordion on there adds a new dimension. I love the accordion. I love Cajun music...in moderation.

GW: How would you describe the influence of country music on the Kinks in general and on you in particular?

DAVIES: Immense. I can't deny it. Although, again, it's like music hall. It's not cool to say it, but the influence of country pickers like Chet Atkins was a big one on me. I'm not sure about Dave. One of the great thrills for me was when the Kinks played the new Grand Old Opry in Nashville and Roy Acuff was at the side of the stage. To me, that was it. That was making it. [laughs] All the early records I owned were basically instrumentals. People like Tal Farlow. He was more of a jazz player, but if you listen to his style, it's got a lot of country in it. When I do my solo shows, we have a little Chet Atkins playing as people are walking out, as well as some Hank Williams at the beginning. To me, Hank is still one of the greatest. When Dave and I were growing up, just rehearsing at home, we used to do all the Hank Williams stuff—in harmony. That would be a party piece for us, to do a Hank Williams song.

GW: Which songs did you do?

DAVIES: We did a very strange one: "Mother is Gone." And "Will You Be Ready." Hank was going through a religious period, I guess, when he did an EP that had those tracks on it. [Reciting] "Will you be ready to go home? Come the day when the world will melt away and Jesus will come to claim his own?" We used to do that in harmony! So it's not so much the pickin' as the mentality that interested us. The homespun quality of it.

GW: Right at the height of the high-gloss early Eighties, you put out a nice sentimental song, "Come Dancing." Were you surprised when it became a hit?

DAVIES: Clive Davis was! [Davis is chief of Arista Records, the Kinks' label at the time—Ed.] I just wanted the record to be a little tribute to my sisters, who were big fans of the dance halls. It was inspired by a photograph that my sister showed me of her dancing at the local hop on Saturday night. It's just about her and her husband.

GW: What kind of considerations went into choosing the songs you recorded at Konk studios for inclusion on the new album?

DAVIES: Very practical considerations, actually. Dave and I are the only people [in the current Kinks lineup] who did these songs in the first place. The other guys didn't know them so well. Because of the limited

amount of time we had, it was just a matter of which ones they could pick up the quickest. Except for "Do You Remember Walter?" which I definitely wanted to record. I think that's one of those cult classics that only real fans know about.

GW: Were you into the idea of "Kinks Unplugged"?

DAVIES: In a sense. The Konk sessions came about because we had just done a documentary with the BBC, [I'm Not Like Everybody Else], and they filmed us in the studio rehearsing. I thought it looked quite good. So I said, why don't we just do this with a few people as an audience in the studio? It worked out okay. We videotaped it as well. But I'm not sure if that will see the light of day.

GW: Your book and your solo shows have been very well-received. You've got a solo album coming out next year. Will there still be a Kinks?

DAVIES: Well, we're talking six months ahead. So we're still talking. That's good. Really good. We're looking further ahead now than we did in 1965. So it's a good time. ●

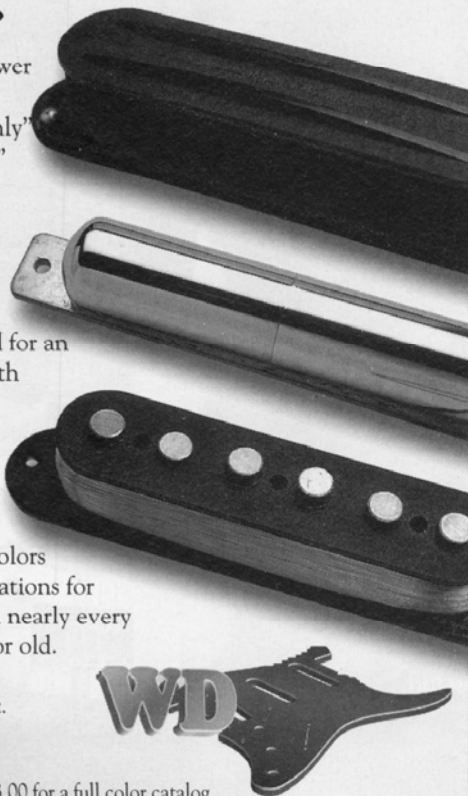
EDWARD VAN HALEN

Continued from page 88

GW: "Right Now" was another important milestone for the band.

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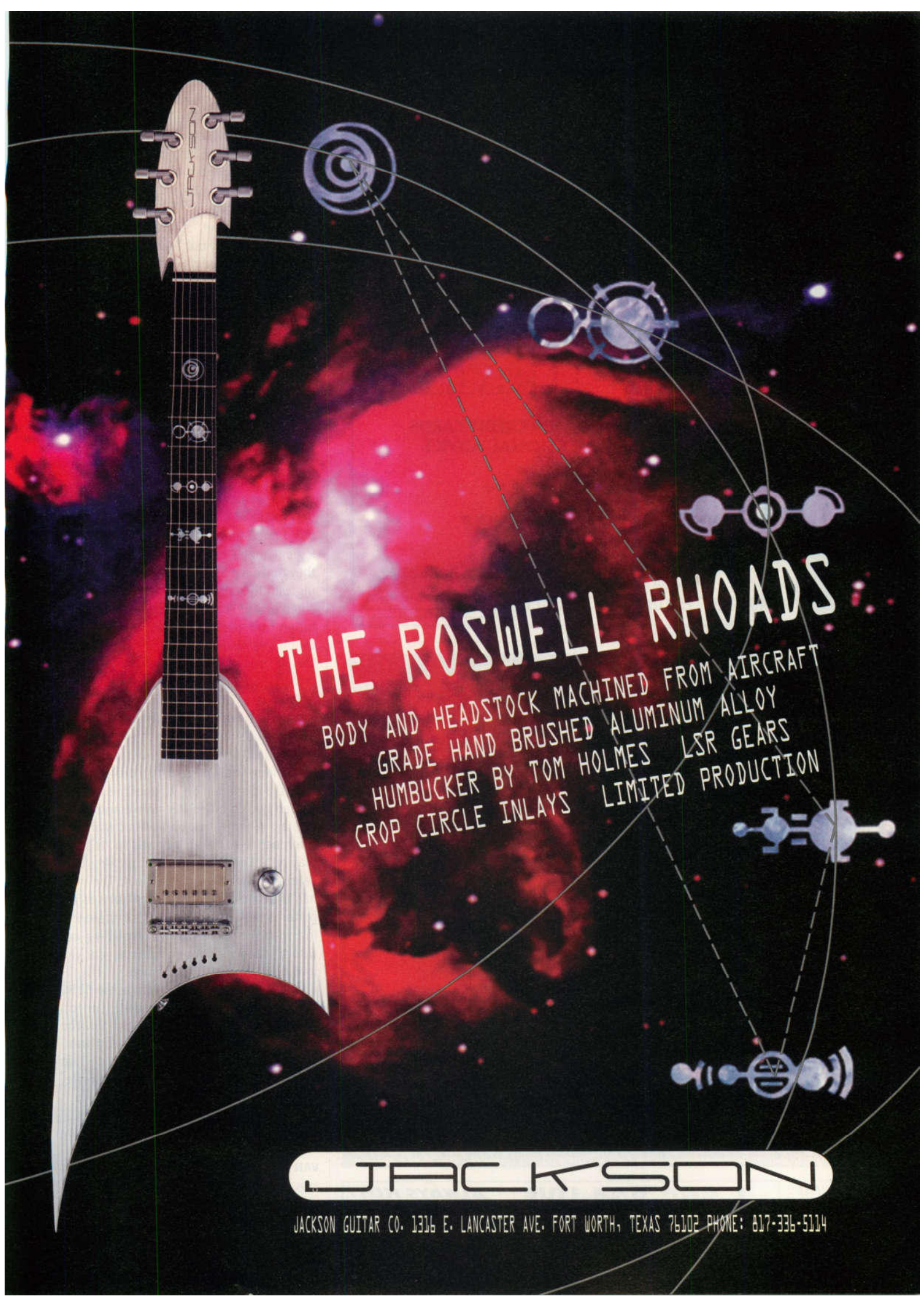
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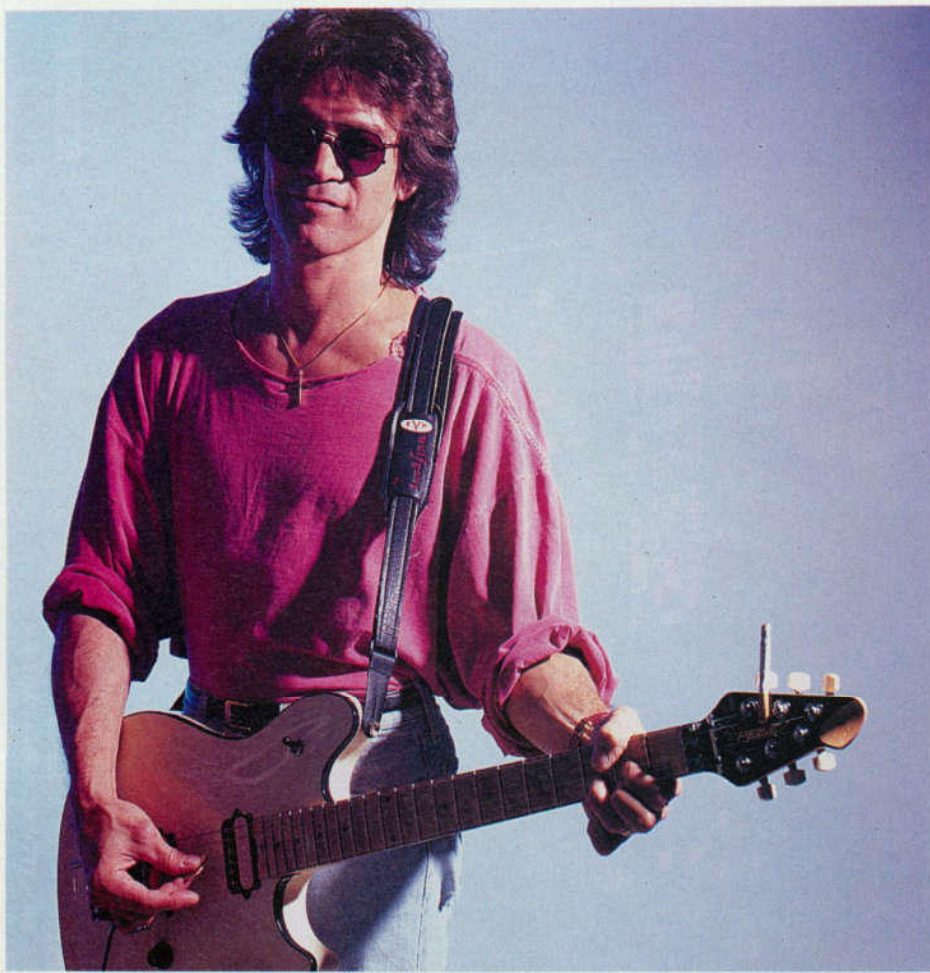


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VAN HALEN: It took 13 years to make that record. I wrote that song a long time ago—right around the “Jump” period. Some people thought “Right Now” was really risky, but to me, it’s not even stepping out. It’s still a rock tune. It’s just piano-based, so what the fuck? It’s not a headbanger. It’s not like “Poundcake” or “Judgment Day,” but it’s still Van Halen.

GW: If “Right Now” was considered risky, “Can’t Stop Loving You” was one of your more overtly commercial songs.

VAN HALEN: Our producer at that time, Bruce Fairbairn, asked me if I had any pop ditties lying around. I had a ton of tapes, so at first I was just going to go through them to see if I had anything. But I was just too lazy to dig through them all. Instead, I just decided it would be easier to write a new tune from scratch, and “Can’t Stop Loving You” was the result. I played it for him and he said, “Great.” I think it was one of the last things we recorded for *Balance*.

GW: What can you tell us about the new tracks with David Lee Roth? How did you compose “Me Wise Magic”?

VAN HALEN: That was just one of almost 20 songs I’d written in the previous couple of months. I played it for Dave, and at first he didn’t quite care for it. Alex and I had

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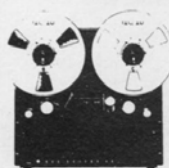
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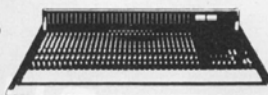
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EDWARD VAN HALEN

already written a verse melody, and Dave wanted to do something where he sang more. But after playing 15 other pieces of music for him, we still couldn't find anything that inspired him.

After thinking about it, he decided he wanted to go back to "Me Wise Magic." And I went, "Okay, cool." At the time he thought it sounded angry, but I convinced him that the verse melody didn't sound angry, it just sounded like some kind of strange creature. And the chorus was undeniably majestic and powerful.

That song has major imagery for me. There are so many vibes to it: the verse is one thing, the chorus is another, and then there's the breakdown before the solo, the solo, and the whole fadeout. It's a ride!

GW: Speaking of new songs, you recently switched to Peavey after playing Music Man guitars for several years. Why the change? And can you talk a little bit about the Wolfgang guitar?

VAN HALEN: Music Man and I had a falling out. I hope there are no hard feelings. The logical place to go was Peavey because they make my amps. And I really like working with them because it's a very family-oriented place. The Wolfgang is a natural evolution from the Music Man, 75 percent of which I designed. I just never thought that the guitar was finished. I always wanted a cross between three guitars—a Les Paul, a Telecaster and a Strat—and the Wolfgang is the realization of that dream.

To me, it's just an updated version of the Music Man. And in my opinion, if you compare them, the Wolfgang is a better guitar. It has a de-tuner on it, and the neck is angled back a bit so it's more comfortable to play. When I pick up a Music Man now it almost feels like it's bowed in. It's like playing a Les Paul and then picking up a Tele. It's a whole different feel. The neck has the same feel but the balance of the guitar is better, and I think it's better-looking with the arch top. We're coming out with a tobacco sunburst, purple, red, yellow, black and ivory. Six colors.

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GW: You've always described your ideal guitar tone as sounding "brown." Is that still true today?

VAN HALEN: That ball has been thrown around so much that it's hard to keep track of what it originally meant. It was actually Alex's term for the sound of his snare—

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22	25	STABBING WESTWARD	WITHER BLISTER PEEL...

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CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

The South rears its ugly head again as C.O.C. continue to refine and perfect their mutant meeting of classic Sabbath-type riffs with the alcohol-soaked grooves of bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd. On *Wiseblood* (the first effort in the band's history to feature no lineup changes from the previous album), vocalist/guitarist Pepper Keenan steps more confidently into the spotlight, pouring out tales of broken hopes and desperate lives in his grizzled, well-worn voice. Meanwhile, the rest of the band stomps and kicks behind him, unleashing an all-consuming roar on tracks like "King Of The Rotten," "The Door," "Drowning In A Daydream," and the epic "Man Or Ash" (listen closely for the special guest vocal on that one!). Less politically-themed than earlier efforts, *Wiseblood* finds C.O.C. expanding their range while staying close to their roots.



EDWARD VAN HALEN

the meaty sound of beating on a log. It also seemed like a good way to describe my ideal sound at the time. If you listen to *Van Halen*, though, my sound is actually pretty bright—it's not really "brown" at all. It cuts.

My guitar sound is fatter these days than it is on the old records. I feel kind of guilty sometimes, because I'm definitely hogging the spectrum of sound on our records. I'm using five amps and cabinets at the same time, all with two mikes on them. There's a guy in Vancouver who made me a splitter box that allows me to use six amps simultaneously. I use three 5150's for dirt and two 5150's for clean, and each amp is on a different track. Also, each amp has two mikes on each cabinet, so you can change the sound of each.

GW: So you're not using Marshalls at all any more?

VAN HALEN: I use them and Hiwatts now and then. But the meat of the sound—the beef—are the 5150's.

GW: What about the gear you use on the two new tracks? I think "Can't Get This Stuff No More" represents the first time you ever used a talk box.

VAN HALEN: Actually, Matt [Bruck, *Van Halen's* guitar tech] ran the talk box for me. My mouth wasn't big enough. I went to Glen, "You try it," because when I did, it just sounded like a wah-wah. I didn't know you had to deep throat the damn thing! [laughs] Glen tried it first and said, "Fuck, it sounds the same as when you do it." Finally, Matt, who used one in his own band, tried it, and it sounded good.

GW: Did you use a DigiTech Whammy pedal on the solo to "Me Wise Magic"?

VAN HALEN: No, that's just a prototype Peavey with a Steinberger tremolo. And during the end I'm using a Fernandes Sustainer.

GW: What goes through your mind when you look back at all of this music?

VAN HALEN: I think it's been a hell of a ride. I think it shows growth and that we're always trying to get better at what we do. Each song is like a photograph—that's why we didn't re-mix anything, all we did was digitally remaster it so the sound quality would be better. Whatever magic was captured on each song, we wanted to leave intact. ●

TRENDS

Continued from page 214

never that clear-cut. In cases involving bogus versions of Deep Purple, Fleetwood Mac, War and countless doo-wop bands, the courts have often disallowed departed band members' attempts to use the group name because the ensemble they

planned to take out was inferior to the point of being fraudulent.

But use of a band name goes beyond legal precedents and into moral and ethical issues—the very question of what *is* a band. Is it still Creedence without John Fogerty, the man who wrote, sang and produced almost all of their material? What about the Guess Who without Randy Bachman or Burton Cummings? Are people walking out of Pink Floyd shows because that isn't Roger Waters playing the "Money" bassline?

In the end, it boils down to credibility. Bands that don't formally break up—Van Halen, Pink Floyd or Kiss, for instance—seem more valid than a unit like Creedence Clearwater Revisited, which is resurrecting a famous name that's been dormant for years. Even the Guess Who was able to carry on for a time after the initial departures of its best-known members; these days, however, it seems a bit of a cheat when the only seminal members remaining are bassist Jim Kale, who owns the name, and drummer Garry Peterson, augmented by whatever journeymen they can line up. Call it the Guess... Who?

But musicians such as Kale and CCR's Cook reason that since they spent much of their lives playing the music and establishing the group's name, they're entitled to use it. Few have justified that argument as effectively as the Waters-less Pink Floyd, whose new material has been heartily embraced by fans.

The counterargument, of course, is that the group's character is a function of the unique chemistry of the original members. When that chemistry is gone, so is the group. That's how the surviving members of Led Zeppelin felt when they disbanded following John Bonham's death; ditto Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl, who didn't dream of continuing as Nirvana following Kurt Cobain's suicide.

Sometimes, you just have to let go. ●

Guitar World contributing writer Gary Graff is editor of the new book *MusicHound Rock: The Essential Album Guide* (Visible Ink Press, \$24.95).

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the name GAME

By Gary Graff

In the age of the partial reunion tour, band members battle over the rights to their monikers.

WHAT'S IN A name? In rock and roll, plenty—especially when it's a band name. More often than not, a band name transcends the names of its individual components, particularly when it comes to success. Consider who's enjoyed the greater fortune—Van Halen or David Lee Roth? Motley Crue or Vince Neil? Pink Floyd or Roger Waters? There have been a few exceptions—Phil Collins and Peter Dinklage succeeded outside of Genesis, for instance—but it's hard to find too many artists who better their lot upon discarding their band with its all-important moniker.

That's why the name is worth fighting over, and there have been a few good punch-ups of late. On the East Coast, David Byrne and his former bandmates in Talking Heads—Jerry Harrison, Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth—went to the mats over the trio's decision to record and tour as "The Heads." Byrne filed suit, arguing that since The Heads was a well-established nickname for the band, his exes would be misleading fans.

"Look, it would be great if we could call this album Talking Heads and if David were involved and all that," Frantz says. "He's just totally opposed to the idea."

This particular matter was settled as a draw, with an out-of-court settlement that allows The Heads to carry on and Byrne to

proceed with producing a Talking Heads box set.

Across the country, however, such a deal seems unlikely for the former members of Creedence Clearwater Revival, whose relationship has long been marked by acrimony. At the band's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, for instance, John Fogerty wouldn't even play with bassist Stu Cook and drummer Doug Clifford. The legal fires ignited this summer when Cook and Clifford hit the road with Creedence Clearwater Revisited, an aggregate that includes former Cars guitarist Elliot Easton and a Fogerty soundalike named John Tristao on vocals. Not the real thing, but an incredible simulation.

Like Byrne, Fogerty has hauled his former cohorts into court, claiming that even under the slightly altered name, their activities are misleading and hurtful to the CCR legacy. To which Cook and Clifford—and the widow of Tom Fogerty, John's brother and former Creedence guitarist—say "bunk."

"We believe we have the legal right to use the name...and to play this music," says Cook.



"We've attempted to bring John into it several times over the last 25 years; unfortunately, he's only gotten more and more distant from us.

"We changed the name purposely so people would know it's not the original band. We're more than content to get the word

out that this may not be the Revival, but it's a great band. We do justice to the material."

Name wars have been going on for ages; go back to the turn of the century and you'll find a suit involving the Sousa (as in John Phillip) Orchestra and a member who quit and tried to appropriate the name for his own ensemble.

Entertainment attorney Michael Novak says that, legally, there's a relatively clear definition of who holds rights to a band name. "Unless there's an agreement to the contrary, if you're a full-time member of the band, you're an equal partner...(and) you may hold yourself under that same name.

"That's why it's so important for there to be an understanding as to what happens when a member leaves. A band should take care of business early on. There should be a stipulation that if you leave the group, the name stays with the group," Novak says.

But it seems that real-life situations are

Continued on page 210

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Willie Nelson's Martin N-20 "Trigger"

WHEN WILLIE NELSON obtained this Martin N-20 classical guitar in 1969, he was clean-shaven and short-haired, and still favored turtle-necks and crisp, stiff cowboy hats. Over the years, both Willie and the guitar have become increasingly scraggly. Now this battered guitar, with its gaping hole and innumerable autographs, is as much a Nelson trademark as his grey beard and long, braided ponytail.

Remarkably, the country outlaw says he came across "Trigger" by pure chance. "Before I got Trigger, I had never played a Martin in my life," says Nelson. "In 1968 or '69, I was out on the road, and my guitar, a Baldwin classical acoustic-electric, got busted up pretty bad. I sent it to Nashville, to Shot Jackson at Sho-Bud Guitars, to be fixed. Shot called me up and said, 'I can't fix this, Willie. You need a new guitar.' The Baldwin was the first time I played classical, and I liked it a lot, so I asked him if he had any kind of nylon-string guitar in the shop that I might like. He said, 'I've got a Martin here that looks pretty good.' So I told him to send it to me. I quickly got addicted to it. I love the gut-string sound, and I love the fact that I can play it with or without an amplifier—it sounds just as good on stage with my band as when I'm sitting on my bus or at home writing songs.

"I love the sound of it so much. It not only feels like part of me, it is part of me. I've written a lot of songs on that guitar—basically everything in the last 25 or so years—and I've played a lot of songs on it, so naturally we've bonded quite a bit. I can't imagine what I'd do without it. Of course, you aren't supposed to use picks on classical guitars, something I have done since the beginning. The guitar has no pickguard to protect its top, so over the years, too many 'Whiskey River's or 'On The Road Again's have put a big hole under the soundhole.

It gets bigger every year, but it doesn't hurt the sound—if anything, it enhances it—so I've never done anything to close the hole. I just reinforce the bracing from the inside every year to make sure the whole thing doesn't collapse."

And all those autographs?

"Many years ago, when I first met [singer/pianist] Leon Russell, he had me sign my name on his guitar," Nelson recalls. "I asked him why and he said it would be more valuable now. So I said, 'All right, then you sign mine, too.' Then I started asking anyone whose autograph I would want to sign it. Roger Miller's on there, as are Johnny Cash and Gene Autry—just a lot of great guys and good friends. My favorite lawyer is on there, too."

—ALAN PAUL

Black Sabbath

Never Say Die, 1978

Tony Iommi & Ozzy Osbourne

